

Election called in Canada after defeat of Government

Canadians have been plunged into a winter of discontent by the defeat of the fledgling Progressive Conservative minority Government in Ottawa. Conservatives fell on a no confidence motion in the Budget, which opposition parties said precipitated an economic depression.

Mr Trudeau may again lead Liberals

Mr Pierre Trudeau, leader of the Liberal Party, has been forced into a winter election campaign by the defeat of Mr Joe Clark's minority Progressive Conservative Government after seven months in office.

The election is to be held on Feb. 8, Mr Clark announced in a speech to the House of Commons today. The Government was defeated by the Liberal Party, the Opposition, was in a position to bring down the Government.

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Goldsmith role in oil deal, Israel radio says

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem, Dec 14

Israel radio reported today that negotiations are under way between the Israeli Government and an international oil company controlled by Sir James Goldsmith over a controversial oil prospecting venture.

According to a brief report, the deal would provide Israel with up to 2 million tonnes of oil a year, about a quarter of its annual consumption. This was exactly the amount lost last month when the Alma field in the Gulf of Suez was handed back to Egypt under the terms of the Camp David agreement.

The Israeli military censor has prevented the naming of the company where the venture will be based, but it is known to be outside Europe.

A spokesman for Sir James's holding company, Generale Occidentale, said in Paris last night that any suggestion of an oil deal with the Israeli Government was "nonsense".

The radio report said that Sir James's company already had oil prospecting rights in the country where the venture would be based.

4 Americans shot dead in Istanbul

From Sinan Fisek
Ankara, Dec 14

Four Americans were killed in an Istanbul suburb today in one of the worst acts of terrorism ever aimed at foreigners in Turkey. The victims, identified as James Clark, a non-commissioned officer in the US Army, and three other Americans, were shot dead by a group of men in a car. The group, which was led by a man named Robert French, said Mr. Clark was a "pre-emptive" target.

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Major-General John Acland, the British commander of the Commonwealth ceasefire monitoring force in Southern Rhodesia, conferring with staff officers in Salisbury yesterday.

New crisis could wreck Rhodesia accord

By David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent

A serious dispute over Lord Carrington's ceasefire plan erupted at the Southern Rhodesia constitutional conference last night, which threatens to wreck the entire settlement today.

The Patriotic Front said that they would refuse to sign the ceasefire today, unless the British side moved to accept its demands on the location of its forces, to take account of their operational strength in the country, and that Lord Carrington must "go home".

Lord Carrington met Mr Joshua Nkomo and Mr Robert Mugabe, the Patriotic Front co-leaders, for an hour at the Foreign Office yesterday, but evidently failed to persuade them.

His argument was that the package negotiated these past 14 weeks, that is the constitution, the interim arrangements before the election, and the terms of the ceasefire, must now be taken as a whole, and that Saturday was "the day of decision".

Front spokesman said, "We jeopardize the lives of our men and women, and we harm ourselves politically by moving out of areas which the other side will fill."

Dr Eddison Zwobgo, spokesman for Mr Mugabe's wing, said that their position was reasonable and valid, and that if necessary they would take their case before the Security Council.

He claimed that a gigantic plot against the Patriotic Front was being furthered by an unholy alliance of Bishop Muzorewa, Mrs Thatcher, Lord Carrington and Mr Pieter Botha, the South African Prime Minister.

A British spokesman said that any suggestion that Britain was complicit in massacre was contemptible.

Art dealer arrested with 'lost' Tintoretto

From Michael Leapman
New York, Dec 14

An Israeli art dealer was charged today with trying to sell a Tintoretto masterpiece which had been missing since its disappearance from Dresden Museum, East Germany, in 1945. He was arrested in a hotel room, yesterday, while allegedly trying to sell the canvas to an undercover agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for \$250,000 (about £120,000)—roughly a quarter of its estimated market value.

The Tintoretto, "The Holy Family with Saint Catherine and Honoured Donor", is one of up to half a dozen paintings of exceptional value which vanished from Germany after the Second World War, and have been rumoured to be on the market here for several months.

Investigations are at an early stage, but it seems that the paintings were taken from Dresden by a member of the Soviet occupation force in 1945 and hidden in Russia for more than 20 years. Earlier this year they were believed to have been taken to Israel among the possessions of an emigrating Soviet Jewish family.

The remaining canvases in that group have not been identified. Among the paintings from Dresden unaccounted for since 1955 are several Van Dycks, an important Correggio and Courbet's "The Stone Breakers".



Clark: A bitter
it after vote.

Mr Peach inquest to be held before jury after ruling by Court of Appeal

By Symon

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New York ban on boxing after death

From Our Own Correspondent
New York, Dec 14

Boxing has been banned in New York State until reforms are instituted which would help prevent incidents such as the one which led to the death of a boxer last month.

The fighter, Willie Classen, died five days after he was knocked out in a bout at Felt Forum, part of the Madison Square Garden complex.

Mr Roy Goodman, a member of the State senate, held two weeks of hearings on Classen's death and concluded that it was "a preventable tragedy".

The boxer had been badly hurt in the head by his opponent, Wilford Scypion, in the ninth round, but was allowed to return for the tenth, when he absorbed more severe punishment. He suffered severe brain damage and never regained consciousness after falling to the canvas.

Judge dismisses union's libel action against 'The Times'

By Marcel Berlins
Legal Correspondent

A trade union does not have the right to sue for defamation in its own name, Mr Justice O'Connor decided in the High Court yesterday.

He said that up to 1974 unions had a legal status that entitled them to bring actions for libel. But the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act, 1974, had deprived them of that status.

He dismissed the action for libel brought by the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union against Times Newspapers Ltd, Mr William Rees-Mogg, editor of The Times, and Mr Paul Routledge, its Labour Editor. The union had claimed that two articles in The Times in November, 1977, were defamatory.

The EETPU is likely to appeal against the decision, which has implications for the whole trade union movement.

Arthur Ashe has heart operation

New York, Dec 14—Arthur Ashe, former Wimbledon and United States Open tennis champion, has heart surgery today.

E Germans jail journalist 'spy'

Berlin, Dec 14—Peter Felten, a West German freelance journalist, was sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment today by a military court in East Berlin on charges of spying against East Germany.

Iraqi held in Heathrow bomb scare

An explosives specialist from the Home Office went to Heathrow airport, London, last night to examine explosives and detonators found on a passenger who was detained by customs officers.

Wanted man detained after IRA raids

One of the men on Scotland Yard's most wanted list after IRA bomb attacks in Britain last year has been detained in the raids this week, police announced.

Food exports narrowed

visible trade deficit contracted to £56m, the lowest monthly this year, compared with the deficit of £339m. The ending of the steel industry strikes helped exports by £161m last month.

Prison inquiry sought

Mr Alexander Lyon, Labour MP for York, has called for a public inquiry into the clash at Wormwood Scrubs prison which ended with 54 prisoners and 11 prison officers injured.

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Nato leaves British Polaris out of Salt 3

Nato ministers meeting in Brussels have agreed not to put pressure on Britain to offer its Polaris deterrent for negotiations in the proposed Salt 3 rounds.

Doctors fly in as Shah deteriorates

Fort Worth, Texas, Dec 14.—The deposed Shah of Iran's condition has worsened and his New York doctors flew here today to decide whether to operate on him again after his recent gall bladder surgery and cancer treatment in New York.

Protests in Madrid

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HOME NEWS

MP alleges 'cloak of secrecy and fear' over clash at prison

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

Evidence of growing trouble in prisons included accusations yesterday that prison officers were dictating policy to a "craven" Home Office, which had also sought to silence individuals speaking out about tough new action against protesting prisoners.

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Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, Labour MP for Ormskirk and chairman of two parliamentary bodies, the All-Party Penal Affairs Group and the Parliamentary Civil Liberties Group, said the Home Office should withdraw its demands for resignation of Mr Jonathan Pollitzer and Miss Kay Douglas-Scott as voluntary workers at Wormwood Scrubs. Pressure was brought to bear on them after they broadcast about the violence.

Mr Kilroy-Silk also said that the refusal of prison officers at Pucklechurch to allow Mr Rodney Morgan, a member of the Board of Visitors, to carry out his legal duties was a gross abuse of power.

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vented at Styal. Free access to Wakefield prison by probation officers and welfare officers had been prevented.

He called on Mr Whitelaw to publish full details of illegal action by prison officers and urged him to reassert control over the service.

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The review team should indicate which areas of policy are and are not appropriate for POA influence.

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Generally, however, the riot at Hull prison in 1976 has made it obvious that officers should be trained more in the handling of disturbances which could, as happened there and at Gartree, develop into serious violence with dangerous missiles being hurled at officers.

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Unity House, headquarters of the National Union of Railwaysmen.

Photograph by David Jones

Campaign to save rail union office

By John Young

Planning Reporter

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An attempt some months ago to have the building listed as of architectural and historic interest was rejected by the Department of the Environment.

Although not included in guidebooks, Unity House is a landmark building dating from the great age of the railways before the First World War, a time when the area was chosen for several other union offices as convenient for members arriving by train from the North and Midlands.

Among its attractive features are the iron railings containing motifs of early steam engines. The building is faced in granite and decorated internally with stained glass and panelling.

Detailed planning permission for a building on the site was granted by Camden Council this year. Demolition is scheduled to begin in March and the union has arranged to move to temporary premises nearby for about two years.

A union official said yesterday that the decision to replace the historic headquarters had been taken with great reluctance. But the building had been extended twice, with the result that much of the interior consisted of wells, staircases and corridors.

The high-ceilinged rooms were difficult to heat and working conditions for staff were noisy and uncomfortable. The union had sought professional advice on whether the structure could be retained and renovated, but had been told it was impracticable.

Only part of the new building would be required by the union's use and the rest would be let to tenants. It was intended to incorporate as many as possible of the present building's features, notably the paneled boardroom.

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PARLIAMENT, Dec 14, 1979

MPs consider banks could do more to help small firms

House of Commons

If small businesses were given sufficient encouragement—not fiscal disincentives—there would be the jobs and prosperity for the future, Mr Anthony Speller (North Devon, C) said when opening a debate on their problems.

He moved that the Government consider appointing an unpaid anomalies commission to identify the illogical legislation that imposed a burden upon small businesses and voluntary services.

He said the Sunday trading laws were full of anomalies. No one could make a profit in hard work on the Sabbath but people could buy photographs in soft back. Anyone could sell aircraft on Sunday but not beside them if they sold fresh meat.

This is the kind of petty anomaly we have to change (he said) otherwise we will be strangled by it.

He was not seeking to alter the laws of the land but there was a need to have the anomalies cleared up.

Mr Guy Barnett (Greenwich, Lab) said banks and other financial institutions were generally unhelpful and in many cases incompetent in dealing with small businesses. He had been told by local employment development officers that banks would rarely, if ever, give more than a token loan for the expansion of a small firm, expecting the remainder to be generated by the firm.

That created appalling liquidity and cash-flow problems, often making a firm insecure during a period of expansion and leading it to face bankruptcy.

Financial institutions handling enormous sums from pension funds and other sources were prepared to risk a small proportion in a flatter because they were incompetent and lacked the specialist knowledge of the small business sector.

Mr Stephen Ross (Leamington, C) said the banks should get together and make an offer to small business. The entrepreneur, with a pool of perhaps £150m, banks had people with the expert knowledge to look at things and see them through. They could offer help and money and have a share in the equity. If they could not do that, they deserved to be nationalised.

Mr John Brown (Whitechapel, C) thanked the Government for what it was trying to do and for what it had done, but he said it was not enough. He said that the Government should be more active in the way they dealt with small business. He said that the Government should be more active in the way they dealt with small business.

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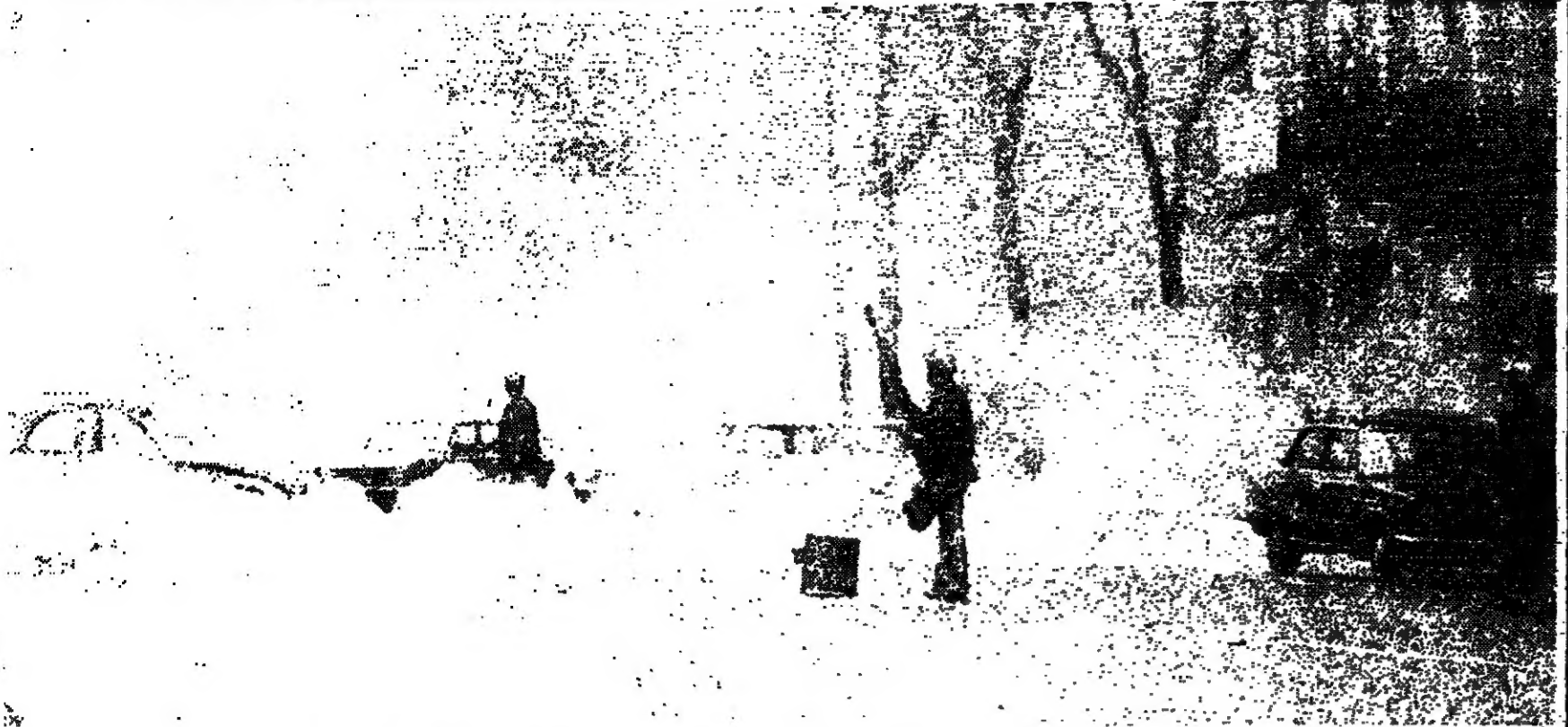
that all closed shops be burned

Mr John Fraser, an Opposition spokesman on trade, (Lambeth, Norwood, Lab) said small businesses were getting the message that a Tory Government was no friend.

For them, the Government's policies had been calamitous. A greater degree of Government intervention was needed. What the small firm complained of was financial disadvantage compared with the large firm. The only way to deal with this was to give preferential, more favourable tax treatment to the small rather than the large firm and to provide a more advantageous source of finance than the small firm had at the present time.

The

WEST EUROPE



Smoke bomb clouds over a Madrid street after two young men were shot dead by police in Thursday's riot.

Street riot deaths bring out Madrid crowds in protest

From Harry Debelius

Madrid, Dec. 14. The fatal shooting of two rioters by the police in Madrid and the expectation of violent reactions from the far left, did not stop Señor Adolfo Suárez, the Prime Minister, from leaving Madrid today on a scheduled day visit to Brussels for meetings with Roy Jenkins, the President of the European Commission.

The deaths occurred last night when, at the end of a peaceful authorized demonstration by trade unionists, gangs of young men barricaded streets and attacked the police with stones and bottles, according to witnesses. One group surrounded a vehicle with five policemen on board, and the policemen — a sergeant and

four patrolmen from the national police force — repelled the attackers by opening fire.

The two killed by gun-fire were identified as Emilio Martínez Menéndez, who was 20 and José Luis Montañés Gil, aged 23.

A number of people were injured in the rioting and 17 were taken into custody.

The shootings led to more demonstrations today in which at least eight people were injured by nightfall in the town of Alcalá de Henares, near Madrid. In Madrid itself 12 militants of the Revolutionary Communist League, who were taking part in an unauthorized demonstration, were arrested.

About 200,000 people attended the trade union demonstration

yesterday called by the Communist Workers' Commission, Spain's biggest union, and others workers' organizations. They marched in protest against a "workers' statute," a Bill regulating labour relations which was debated yesterday, and again today, in a plenary session of Parliament.

The dead men had no connection with the demonstration, but were believed to be among about 500 people protesting against proposed legislation on university affairs who harassed the police lining the route of the authorized march. There had been skirmishes between students and the police.

An assortment of extreme left-wing parties, none of them big enough to be represented in Parliament, joined the

student groups in calling for further demonstrations to protest against the shootings.

Señor Enrique Irujo, leader of the Basque Nationalist Party, arrived at the airport at 5pm for Brussels in connection with Spain's application for EEC membership. He was to return tomorrow night. King Juan Carlos was also absent, on a visit to Equatorial Guinea.

The Basque country prepared today for the homecoming of the *Lendakari*, the 83-year-old leader, Señor Jesus Maria Laizola, the president of the Basque "government in exile" who is expected to hand over his "authority" to the Basque General Council over the weekend.

Señor Laizola's formal return, to be celebrated first in the Bilbao football stadium

tomorrow after his arrival on board a special flight from Paris, will be the final step in completing the autonomy process under which the Basque country recently won regional self government.

Señor Laizola, who was legally elected in 1936, and never renounced his authority, will step down at last.

Sunday in a simple ceremony in Guernica, the traditional Basque capital which during the Spanish civil war was razed to the ground by the Luftwaffe. The Basque country, which the *Lendakari* will recognize as Señor Carlos Garaikotzea, the President of the Basque General Council. He will remain in office until early next year at least when Basque voters will elect their regional government.

British deterrent will be left out of Salt 3

From Henry Stanhope

Defence Correspondent
Brussels, Dec. 14.

Nato which earlier this week approved a new arms control initiative to the Soviet Union, did not put any pressure on Britain to offer its own Polaris deterrent for negotiation.

Despite the recent attempt by Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, to resurrect the claim that British and French forces should be included in the strategic arithmetic, the possibility was not even discussed during the five days of meetings here at Nato headquarters.

Dr Joseph Luns, Nato's secretary-general, made clear at a final press conference here today that the Strategic Arms Limitation talks (Salt 3), at which the new Nato proposals are to be presented, will remain a Soviet-American affair in which only the nuclear weapons of the super powers will be involved.

Meanwhile, the United States will contact the Russians as soon as possible to relay the Alliance's proposals, which accompanied the plan to station 572 new nuclear weapons in Western Europe. The decision to deploy these missiles was also approved on Wednesday.

But the first concrete result of this week's Nato meetings will come on Monday, when the West will take the Vienna talks on mutual balanced force reductions (MBFR).

Sources confirmed today that the main feature of the plan is

a phase one withdrawal of 30,000 Soviet and 13,000 American troops.

So much talk of arms control, coupled with the broad agreement shown by the Alliance on Wednesday, has made it a good week for Nato's image.

Even the Soviet response to the Nato decision to station new nuclear weapons in West Europe, has been less severe than expected here.

The general feeling is that they were taken by surprise by the Alliance's display of political will, as was Nato itself.

The final communiqué, issued after the meeting of foreign ministers, welcomed the agreement reached on Rhodesia. The ministers, it said, looked forward to the day when an independent Republic of Zimbabwe would take its place as a full member of the international community.

But the communiqué was more concerned with the achievements of Brussels than London. It said that ministers were determined that the 1980s should see a fundamental change for the better in the situation between East and West. The programme of action envisaged by Nato offers the best opportunity for creating more constructive relations.

The communiqué went on to say that the ministers "considered that this programme represents a major new opportunity for the countries of the Warsaw Pact to translate into action the interest they have signalled in improving the situation in Europe."

French left pressed by Communists to resist

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, Dec. 14.

The French Communist Party may no longer take its orders from Moscow, as was the case in the heyday of Stalinism, but it remains a powerful force on the same wavelength.

Witness the great offensive the Communist Party's Politburo has launched against the Nato decision to modernize theatre nuclear forces in West Europe, and its appeal to all left-wing parties and trade union organizations to a "popular counter-attack" to thwart it.

"This decision of extreme gravity constitutes a real challenge to the European peoples," the appeal says. "The Nato decision, prepared by a formidable poisonous campaign, represents a 'popular counter-attack' to thwart it."

It was hostile to peace and peaceful coexistence, and prejudicial to the economic development of nations and the improvement of the standard of living of the people.

"The stationing of such an arsenal on the frontiers of France constitutes a grave threat to the French people and nation," the appeal goes on.

It is therefore "up to the workers and the patriots of our country to take rapidly the initiative of the struggle," and to say no to the deployment of American missiles in Europe.

They must demand the immediate opening of negotiations on the reduction of nuclear and conventional weapons.

M Georges Marchais, the Secretary-General of the Communist Party, said in a letter to leaders of the Socialist Party and trade union organizations to invite them to a meeting tomorrow to prepare a common reaction to the Nato decision.

The position of the French Government on the deployment of American theatre nuclear missiles was spelled out in the National Assembly by M. François Poncelet, the Foreign Minister, in answer to a question by a Communist deputy. M. Bernard Deschamps claimed that the Government's position was "a popular counter-attack" to thwart it.

M Poncelet replied that France was not called upon to take a stand on the modernization of weapons of an organization of which it was not a part. "To do so would be to put our finger in the works. I had not understood it was the Communist Party's wish we should do so."

Nato nuclear plan 'kills talks basis'

From Michael Binyon

Moscow, Dec. 14.

In the first authoritative Soviet comment on Nato's decision to deploy new medium-range missiles in West Europe, the Director-General of Tass said tonight the decision had killed any basis for further arms talks.

Mr Sergei Loser, said in a signed commentary: "It must be stated with a full sense of responsibility that by their decision on the deployment of American theatre nuclear missiles, the NATO countries have destroyed the basis for talks that had existed."

"There will be no talks of the Nato basis from positions of strength and let us not have any illusions on this score," the Nato Council, he added, assumed grave responsibility for a new round of the arms race.

Mr Loser described the decision as "dangerous to the cause of peace and international détente," and said it was adopted at a time when, objectively speaking, there was no need to raise the level of military confrontation on the Continent.

He said Nato had ignored the Soviet Union's constructive initiatives. Its communiqué, justifying the decision by referring to a supposed substantial expansion in Soviet tactical nuclear forces, turned the facts upside down. During the past 10 years, he asserted, the medium-range nuclear weapon carriers in the west of the Soviet Union were not increased by a single missile or warhead.

On the contrary, the number of launchers of medium-range missiles, as well as the yield of the nuclear warheads of these missiles were even somewhat decreased.

The article rejected arguments about the defensive nature of the measures by stating that they were all part of an aggressive long-range American military programme that was adopted in 1975. The decision to modernize medium-range nuclear missile weapons was taken in 1975, before there were any Soviet SS20 missiles. The Nato contention therefore was "out-and-out hypocrisy."

Mr Loser said the programme was based on an offensive strategy, directed against the Soviet Union and the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Referring to the Nato hope of pursuing talks with the Soviet Union, Mr Loser said: "In an attempt to deceive public opinion, Nato officials are trying to create the impression that now they are coming out almost as initiators of negotiation."

Theologian ends explanations

From Edward Schillebeeckx

Rome, Dec. 14.—Professor Edward Schillebeeckx, the Belgian theologian who fled to the Vatican to clarify his views on the divinity of Christ, today completed his explanations.

The Vatican has been at pains to say the talks do not constitute a heresy trial.—Reuter.

Ban on filming Nazi trial

Cologne, Dec. 14.—A BBC

television crew was today banned from filming a Nazi war crimes trial in which three former SS officers stand accused of deporting thousands of French Jews to their deaths.

The BBC series, which is to be shown in March when the Holocaust film is to be repeated, is produced by Bill Trehanne.

Europe's highest cable-car railway opens

From Our Correspondent

Geneva, Dec. 14.

Europe's highest cable-car railway opens this weekend. It runs from Trochener Steg (9,846 ft), above Zermatt, to the 12,530 ft peak just below the peak of the Little Matterhorn.

At the top station a 500ft tunnel provides access to the Tessa Grigia skiing area below the Matterhorn and a lift connects the station with an observation platform at 12,736ft.

Despite strong environmentalist opposition, construction began in 1973. Materials for the cable-stations were transported by helicopter. Four flights were needed for every square yard of reinforced concrete which was prepared down at Trochener Steg with hot water to which anti-freeze had been added.

Until now Europe's highest cable-railway station has been the Aiguille du Midi (12,461 ft) in the Mont Blanc massif.

Gains for moderate French unions

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, Dec. 14.

The election of 14,026 members of France's industrial tribunals, producing an unexpected large turnout of voters. It also saw notable progress made by the moderate grade union organizations, Force Ouvrière and the Confédération Française Démocratique du Travail (CFDT), in relation to the two more politically committed union organizations, the Communist-led Confédération Générale du Travail (CGT) and the left-wing Confédération Française Démocratique du Travail (CFDT).

Nearly 7,500,000 registered workers, or 63 per cent of those registered, and 48 per cent of the 900,000 registered employers took part in these elections for the *conseils des prud'hommes* set up by law last January. An institution established by Napoleon in 1806, they have been reformed from time to time since but were in urgent need of a complete overhaul.

The former has been extended to all areas of the country and for the first time members of the tribunals were being elected on the basis of a uniform voting system.

The big national labour organizations swept the board on Wednesday, gathering in more than 95 per cent of the "in-crushing" defeat for the "independent" unions, regarded by the *Force Ouvrière* as enemies of the

employers. They have been fighting for years for recognition as national organizations, but only received a meagre 2.8 per cent of the workers' votes.

These elections were seen by all the unions as a test of their potential support, not so much in the ranks of organized workers, which in France only accounts for one wage-earner in four, but of the working population as a whole. The results must be an encouragement for the unions and they prove that there is no "silent majority" in the world of labour as some employers maintained.

The leaders of the four leading trade union organizations expressed satisfaction with the results. M. Georges Seguy said the CGT had been confirmed in first place with 42.9 per cent of the vote, but this cannot conceal the fact that it hoped to get 50 per cent. It has lost ground in relation to the only comparable poll—that for the workers' representatives to the social security councils in 1962, when it scored 44.3 per cent—and achieved nothing like the score of more than 59 per cent it won in the immediate postwar years.

The CFDT, led by M. Edmond Maire, remains on paper the second largest labour organization with 23.1 per cent. But M. André Bergeron, leader of Force Ouvrière, claimed with some justice that his union was in fact the second largest, if one added to its score of 17.4 per cent the strong support it enjoys among Government officials and public sector workers.

who did not take part in the vote.

"We did not think we would achieve such a score—the best polls gave us 10 to 12 per cent," he said. Force Ouvrière owed its advance of nearly 6 per cent, when compared with 1962, to the support of non-unionized voters.

"This poll is a broad approval by the working class of the policy we have led for years of independence from parties and the state, and of national wage agreements," M. Bergeron added.

The CFDT, the Christian rump resulting from a break-away from the CFDT, had not expected to poll more than 5 per cent, but obtained 6.9 per cent.

"The result was not a surprise for us—it was for those who had buried us prematurely. If we had not been victims of a conspiracy of silence, we would have done better," said M. Jean Bernard, its Secretary-General.

Among the cadres or workers in management grades, who constitute a separate electoral college for the elections, the Confédération Générale des Cadres (CGC) upheld its claim to be their leading union organization with 30 per cent of the poll—ahead of the CFDT, the CGT, Force Ouvrière and the CFDT in that order. The result was gained despite the fact that commercial travellers, technicians, and foremen were registered in separate colleges.

Red Brigades shoot two in raids on Fiat plants

From Our Correspondent

Turin, Dec. 14.—Guerrillas shot and wounded two employees in attacks at Fiat plants here today and thieves believed to be guerrillas aided two other Fiat factories.

Police said Signor Adriano Albertino, a department head at the Mirafiori body works, was in a serious condition after being shot in the legs by two men who approached him as he arrived at work.

The Red Brigades guerrilla group later claimed responsibility. "We have suspended (Signor Albertino) from work. If he shows his face in the factory again we shall kill him."

Soon after, a watchman at Fiat's Iveco commercial vehicles plant was shot in the leg by two men armed with a pistol

and a machine-gun.

The attackers fled in a Fiat which police said was almost certainly the same as the one used by the gunmen who wounded Signor Albertino.

At about the same time thieves made apparently co-ordinated raids on two other Fiat plants in Turin and got away with 500 million lire (272,000) in wages.

In one they were spotted by security men and fled empty-handed. In the second raid, police said about eight bandits dressed in work overalls burst into Fiat's Rivalta press shop and made off with wages.

Five factories and employees have for several years been a target for urban guerrillas.—Reuter.

OVERSEAS

Rhodesian police raid Salisbury offices of Mr Nkomo's party

From Nicholas Ashford

Salisbury, Dec. 14.

A number of important policy decisions can be expected to be taken by Lord Soames, the British Governor of Southern Rhodesia, during the course of the coming week if agreement is reached on a ceasefire in London this weekend.

One of his first acts, it was made clear today, will be to lift the ban on the Patriotic Front and its two political wings, Mr Joshua Nkomo's Zimbabwe African People's Union (Zapu) and Mr Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union (Zanu). The organizations were banned by the Salisbury Government over a year ago and have remained proscribed since the arrival of Lord Soames two days ago.

This has already given rise to resentment in black nationalist circles and has led to allegations that Lord Soames and the British were favouring the internal black political parties, particularly Bishop Abel Muzorewa's United African National Council (UNAC).

These suspicions were reinforced today when the police raided the Salisbury offices of Zapu and seized pictures of Mr Nkomo. They also briefly detained Mr Cephas Maipa, Zapu's local representative for questioning.

Mr Maipa said later that he had been charged with holding an "illegal" political meeting. However, police said he had only been interviewed and not charged.

Other decisions which are likely to be implemented soon after a ceasefire has been agreed will be the cessation of hanging of people convicted of political offences and the release of the remaining political detainees.

British sources said today that cases involving death sentences and "detentions" were already being reviewed. It was understood there are over 100 people awaiting execution. No hangings have taken place since Lord Soames's arrival.

Another matter which is already receiving Lord Soames's attention and on which early decision can be expected is the lifting of the embargo on maize supplies to Zambia.

The ban was imposed by the Salisbury Government during the Lancaster House talks in an attempt to put pressure on Mr Nkomo's guerrillas from Zambia into Rhodesia and also to impress on President Kaunda, the Zambian head of state, the need to ensure that his country's policy of tolerance was successful. Assuming that there is a ceasefire, then the need to put such pressure on Zambia will fall away.

British sources today refused to comment on reports that the Governor had called a meeting of his executive council to discuss the alleged South Rhodesian raid by the Rhodesian security forces. However, it is understood that the absence of any major actions by the security forces since the arrival of Lord Soames is a sign

that he has made it clear he will not tolerate any military action which could jeopardise or delay the ceasefire talks.

Yesterday, Lord Soames held talks with Air Marshal Mick McLaren, Acting Commander of Combined Operations, and will shortly be seeing Lieutenant-General Peter Walls, the Rhodesian military chief, who returned from London today.

However, despite the absence of any major actions, the war has continued to take its toll on the black and white population. Combined Operations Headquarters announced today that a white civilian, a black civilian and 11 guerrillas had been killed during the past 24 hours.

Until there is a ceasefire Lord Soames will retain overall responsibility for the security of the security forces. Only when there has been an agreement in London will he be able to assume the role of arbitrator between the security forces and the Patriotic Front armies.

At a press conference this afternoon, Major-General John Acland, the Governor's military adviser and the man who will be in charge of the 1,200-strong Commonwealth ceasefire monitoring force, confirmed that there was a small South African military presence in Rhodesia. He said it consisted of less than 1,000 men, although there were also South Africans and other foreigners serving as "attested individuals" in the Rhodesian security forces.

The general, who neatly fielded a number of difficult questions by replying with cricketing metaphors, would not be drawn on what would happen to the South Africans once there is a ceasefire. However, it is understood that Britain has been given assurances there will be no "foreign interventionist" forces, or involvement from outside Rhodesia during the ceasefire.

General Acland made it clear that his task was to organize the ceasefire force and not to command the Rhodesian Army. At the moment there is only one British major attached to Rhodesian Combined Operations Headquarters and his task is to prepare for the monitoring of the ceasefire.

At the same press conference a British spokesman said Lord Soames had meetings during the day with a number of outgoing ministers.

The Rev Nabungu Sibhole's rival wing of Zanu today presented a petition to Government. It called on Lord Soames to make a series of changes in electoral procedures to ensure that there was not a repetition of the "irregularities" which Zanu claimed took place during last April's election.

Meanwhile, Bishop Muzorewa's guerrillas suffered a serious blow today with the announcement that Mr George Nyandoro, former Minister of Lands, Natural Resources and Rural Development, was leaving politics.

Tehran alleges border raid by Iraqi force

Tehran, Dec. 14.—An Iraqi

force armed with heavy weapons today drove three miles into south-west Iran but retreated several hours later, the Foreign Ministry announced.

"The border now is completely calm," the ministry said in a brief statement broadcast on radio. The statement did not say when or where the attack had taken place or the strength of the Iraqi force.

But it said the Iraqi forces had crossed three miles into Iran in what other government sources identified as the Shalmancheh area in Khuzestan province, an oil-producing region.

Earlier Tehran radio claimed that Iraqi forces had attacked with heavy artillery and accused the United States of being involved.—UPI.

But somehow he survived."

said the guerrilla leader who in 1975 raided a meeting of the oil ministers of some of the world's richest nations in Vienna. "When I decided to make another attempt and got the necessary arms the man left London for Bermuda and never returned."

During the interview he referred to Mr Sieff as Lord Sieff. In fact Lord Sieff, Mr Sieff's brother, died in 1972.

This is the third week of a so-called "interview" by the magazine with Carlos, aged 38, who was reported last week as saying he joined the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), a Marxist guerrilla group, in July, 1970, after being expelled from university in Moscow.

Many foreigners in Peking will be heartily concurring with the attack on the practice of herding aliens into special facilities areas.

The practice of isolating foreigners is derived partially from Chinese traditional ideas of courtesy, and partly from an equally traditional fear of alien influence which might present a threat to China's security. If not properly controlled, foreigners in China often resent being compelled to eat in special dining rooms at public restaurants, where the prices are higher and there is no contact with the Chinese patrons.

The magazine said more foreigners in Peking are nowadays taking their place in a queue to wait

'Carlos' admits trying to kill Marks and Spencer head

Beirut, Dec. 14.—The Ven-

ezuelan-born guerrilla assassin known as Carlos was quoted today as saying his favourite method of execution was a bullet in the face.

He told the Paris-based Arabic magazine *Al Wasat* that this was how he had tried to kill Mr Joseph Edward Sieff, the British Jewish millionaire whose family owns Marks and Spencer stores, of which he is president.

Carlos, whose real name is Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, disclosed that he went to meet Sieff's London flat in December, 1973, armed with a Beretta pistol and ordered the butler at gunpoint to call his master.

When Mr Sieff came out, Carlos shot him in the face.

"But somehow he survived," said the guerrilla leader who in 1975 raided a meeting of the oil ministers of some of the world's richest nations in Vienna. "When I decided to make another attempt and got the necessary arms the man left London for Bermuda and never returned."

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Foreigners prefer Peking queues

From David Bonavia

Hongkong, Dec. 14.

The Chinese people have been admonished by the Communist Party not to discriminate against each other in order to provide better facilities for foreign visitors and residents.

The *People's Daily* said that a Chinese people are invariably shunned in foreign airports, at places such as airports, exhibition halls and railway dining cars, where foreigners are being catered for. "Anyone with a degree of national self-respect and sense of honour will feel indignant about this."

The Communist Party newspaper added: "Some people give their countrymen 'foreign looks of hate, uttering harsh words and giving them a dress-

ing down whenever they dare to disagree."

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The practice of isolating foreigners is derived partially from Chinese traditional ideas of courtesy, and partly from an equally traditional fear of alien influence which might present a threat to China's security. If not properly controlled, foreigners in China often resent being compelled to eat in special dining rooms at public restaurants, where the prices are higher and there is no contact with the Chinese patrons.

The magazine said more foreigners in Peking are nowadays taking their place in a queue to wait

for a table in an ordinary restaurant, where the food likely to be as wholesome as plentiful as in the special rooms for foreigners, a cheaper to boot.

Most foreigners in China realize that they would like to live at the standard comfort which the Chinese people accept as normal, a would be most unhappy suddenly turned out in a crowded and fenced compound named "ghettos."

However, said upsurge of personal contacts which became possible early this year has made many foreigners realize that there is no "intrinsic" reason why they should not have informal friendships with Chinese people.

Envoys in Europe recalled by Tehran

Tehran, Dec. 14.—Iran's

bassadors to France, West Germany and Scandinavian countries have been recalled for consultations with Mr Sac Ghabdizadeh, the Foreign Minister.

The brief announcement from Iran's Foreign Ministry gave no reason, however, for the action. It comes on the heels of a European tour by Mr Cyrus Vaezi, the American Secretary of State, in which he sought support for economic strictures against Iran.

At the same time, Tehran repeated a broadcast statement by the Ayatollah Khomeini saying that all nations "approached" "turned down" Mr Vance.

Ayatollah Khomeini also accused President Carter of being more concerned about his re-election than about the release of the hostages held at the United States Embassy in Tehran since November 4.

"It is not because humanity that he demands the release of these 50 people, only want to be re-elected," the Ayatollah told his advisers. His comments were later broadcast.

Iran's Commerce Minister has been working for weeks on plans to cope with a possible trade embargo.—AP.

Poor response: Mr Va returns from Europe evening, but it is not clear that he got from real support from European governments. (Our Washington Correspondent writes) idea of asking the Security Council to decree sanctions against Iran met with a month's delay and there are signs that the attitude of United States towards allies is beginning to waver.

The suggestion that it might be used against Iran less often heard than it has been, Mr Car says that there are relatively hopeful signs coming out of Tehran notably promises of foreign observers could visit hostages and that not a single hostage would be executed.

The Americans expect leadership paralysis in Teh to continue. Further economic pressure might weaken Iranian Government more, this might not help the hosts much.

In a curious development, Iranian appear to have appointed an American citizen as their Permanent Representative to the United Nations. Is Professor Mansur Farhi an Iranian who has taught at the Sacramento campus of California State University, was naturalized by the United States in 1969.

Court ruling: The Interim Court of Justice in The Hague is to give an interim ruling on the case against Iran from Amsterdam. Correspondent writes.

The court, presided by Humphrey Waldock of Britain, held its first public hearing the case last Monday.

Saturday Review



Public days, private ways

by Michael Holroyd

For many years I used to believe that public holidays had been invented for children and would disappear once I grew up. It was one of the ways—a moustache was another—I would be able to tell. But holidays have not vanished: they have grown mercifully long, and I now look on them as occasions when, pending our second childhood, we try to plunge back to early child days. Blood is thicker than water but families are thicker than thieves, so our attitude depends on the sort of childhood we enjoyed or endured. A time for suicide or for celebration: the world is divided into those who take their holidays with or from their relatives.

Like many who moved clear of the eccentricities of conventional family life, I still nurse a fantasy of the ideal Christmas or Easter. It is a pretty travesty. The bells ring out, snow arranges itself brilliantly across the fields and trees; while within all is singing and smiling, laughter and presents. And I am dancing rather amazingly. I can see the same living room as Maurice Sachs saw when he closed his eyes, the living room "of a big country house where the fireplace holds three tree trunks. My father comes in all muffled from foxhunting, my mother gets up from the piano where she has been singing a simple ballad. My (virgin) sister, leaves off her embroidery . . . and so on. Probably I was fortunate in that the only connexion my family had with this grand mythical scene was one of caricature.

If the holiday spirit depends upon family loyalty then this would explain (to my own family's satisfaction) my poor showing. Everyone tried, when I was a child, to put on a good performance for "the boy". But even to my eyes it had the air of a first rehearsal for the real holiday-to-come which never came: the mince pies or Easter eggs irretrievably mislaid in the garage; the crashing problem of washing-up after the sherry (we eventually used egg cups); the untouchable arrangement of cards (sometimes months afterwards) by my aunt. We were all determined amateurs.

Still, my grandparents did light a fire in the hall; we would sit the dog on a mat and draw it up to guard the flames.

That seemed authentic. Even when we could no longer afford a dog, my aunt usually managed to borrow one. But I doubt if our hearts were really in the business. Our natural talent was less for compulsory conviviality than complaint. We could bring to complaint—and never more ecstatically than on Holy Days—the rhythms of a paranoiac ritual so sophisticated that to outsiders it must have seemed as incomprehensible as Latin or Greek chants. Outsiders, in fact, seldom entered our house, being neither invited nor anxious for invitations. So our rejoicings were claustrophobically Holroyd, and none the less odd for that.

Good Friday, Whitsun, the August Bank Holiday—we saw them all as opportunities for disaster. We had the recipe for disaster as other people had it for brandy butter. In this matter we were wonderfully self-sufficient. We could, for example, rely on the weather as being unpredictable. There was a lot of weather around on holidays. Temperatures were usually critical—disastrously hot or cold depending on which room we gaped or huddled in; or else, if we risked moving, dramatically changeable. Influenza flourished, and was treated under the supervision of my grandfather who was "better than any doctor" and never scrupled to get up from his own sickbed to administer black molasses, herbs and honey. The family doctor (who was actually called Influenza) was never allowed in the house unless it was for a consultation on the dog which, because of its pampered diet, was often ill. We blamed Influenza.

Next to medicine, my grandfather's chief hobby when I knew him was weather. He knew the names of clouds and could predict things, such as their effect on General Elections, with vigorous Conservative optimism. In his role as unfrocked scientist, he liked to conduct expensive experiments. In the morning-room it was exclusively Dr. Bronowski's coke, in the hall Maurice Sachs's tree trunks; the kitchen was served in a blue sort of way by unnatural gas, the dining-room was red with electricity. There was also a huge Aga furnace and scattered on the landings various popping oil heaters. The house was freezing. Overhead, spied on by my grandfather, the clouds moved slowly past

and the only result of these experiments appeared to be our double-mortgage.

Weather saturated our meals. By springing up and twisting some knobs, my grandfather could conjure from the radio-gram—a massive and fiercely complex machine that dominated our dining-room—consecutive and sometimes conflicting weather reports. We ate to the accompaniment of droughts and blizzards while my grandfather, at the head of the table, smiled and nodded expertly. With the middle of lunch or dinner came the news: advancing armies, mounting scores, volcanic eruptions, bloody murders, strikes floated round the room as we sat quietly eating.

But never music. My family was intensely unmusical and never interfered with my own musical tastes—indeed, had not heard of them. Occasionally my grandmother would moan an Irish dirge—"Father, dear father, was a favourite of hers. My grandfather seemed untroubled by this, being partly deaf. My father was less susceptible still and could be propelled to attention after a few bars of Gilbert and Sullivan if someone (usually myself) hinted that it might be "God Save the King". Of course he had heard of music, my father, but he hadn't heard anything very good. It was dangerous stuff, so they said, and he could well imagine it: brandy of the damned. A lot of the trouble in the world—the sort of thing we heard at lunch—could have been avoided by a little intelligent silence: that was his opinion, and who can say that it was wrong? He valued silence in others. So did we all.

But my aunt, a flapper of forty, had plenty of records: the garage was full of them. So far as I could judge, she kept them mainly for practising her dusting. Since the radio-gram was reserved for international crises, of which there seemed an infinite supply and for which we had such a mournful relish, there was seldom time for the frivolity of the phonograph. But on holidays there was an amnesty, and my aunt would wheel in her obsolete records at tea time. They were seventy-eights, of course, worn smooth with dusting, and very faint: "Miss Orléans", "Bye Bye Blackbird" and foreign noises such as Charles Trenet singing "Le

Mer". To-day this music fills me with nostalgia, but at the time I felt impatient. I needed something martial and intellectual—massed bands blaring gently away among the straw-berries, and various "lollipops" Tchaikovsky, Grieg. I pined for rousing stuff, loud and fast, and getting louder and faster, such as Ravel's *Solemn*. With a ruler in my hand, or a pencil, I could whip myself into a fine frenzy conducting "The Ride of the Valkyries": but I never heard it at home.

My mother knew a bit about music. It was something you kicked up your heels to, something that came with waiters and champagne. If there was music going on, she couldn't keep still. There was no telling where it would lead her. She was a fearful embarrassment to us all, going round enquiring about the music, and then spitting up. Both of them liked travelling, and in no time I had French and Hungarian step-parents—with an occasional step-brother or (virgin) step-sister added to the retinue. To ingratiate themselves, they would ask me various thick and complicated questions about cricket, and I soon became politely expert. But it was difficult at first getting their names right and I noticed how old everyone looked when I got them wrong. Each holiday I would be introduced to someone fresh and whirled off I knew not where. I should have enjoyed it far more than I did, but I had no grasp of geography and little sense of its prestige.

I remember how surprised I was by the westness of Vienna until discovering myself to be in Venice. That vain English desire of shyness concealed many things from me, and I appeared to go about in a protective dream not knowing it was Christmas or Easter, Cologne or Acapulco.

My mother followed the sun and I trailed after her. As soon as the sun came up, she lay down, hour after hour, turning very slowly and darkening-like regions on a spit. I hung about waiting—waiting for life to career into me. I had little gift for sunbathing—or for the other fears my mother perceived so well: languages, dancing, and so on. I enjoyed them, and still do, with feverish longing, but as a spectator. My spirit danced and was eloquent

and returned to the Second World War. My aunt did her best. But I remember thinking as we quarried out lumps of ice from the fridge to put on her head while waiting for the ambulance, that she had probably been unwise to choose the dining-room for practice. Holidays often produced hangovers like this.

It was characteristic of my grandparents' indulgence towards me that the blame for these disasters was automatically fixed, to his consternation and bewilderment, on my father. I had, it was explained, been trying too hard to please him. As a child I was extremely timid, but with moments of vicarious boldness that were almost always regretted. When my father arrived one Easter with a rifle, this was at once confiscated by my aunt. But it set me thinking. I had discovered a walking-stick in the ballstand that turned out to be a concealed gun. Having loaded it with a cartridge from the attic, I approached my grandfather in her bathroom. She pulled the trigger in innocent self-defence—that is, in honour—and sent us both careering into the garage below. Every one was very angry with my father.

Michael Holroyd, celebrating in paper hat with his mother, and as 'the boy' whom nobody seemed to know what to do with at holiday time . . .

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During the school holidays there was one place I dreaded being sent: it was called ABROAD. At school I was much envied for the number of times I had been there and listened to in awe if I let drop a word or two of Paris or Stockholm. But I was always lost in these places. My parents had met abroad. In the 1930s, my father was heroically trying to

sell glass to Sweden (like coals to Newcastle) and accosted my Swedish mother on the boat. They got along fine on water, but eventually struck land and then split up. Both of them liked travelling, and in no time I had French and Hungarian step-parents—with an occasional step-brother or (virgin) step-sister added to the retinue. To ingratiate themselves, they would ask me various thick and complicated questions about cricket, and I soon became politely expert. But it was difficult at first getting their names right and I noticed how old everyone looked when I got them wrong. Each holiday I would be introduced to someone fresh and whirled off I knew not where. I should have enjoyed it far more than I did, but I had no grasp of geography and little sense of its prestige.

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while I sat quietly by. All this sitting around convinced people that I was, if not precocious, terribly mature. My emotional paralysis made me appear by the age of 16 to be everyone's uncle. I was far older than my mother and to her extreme delight we were sometimes taken for brother and sister. In many respects I was in loco parentis, if she wished to elope, fly off from one country to the next, she made me her travel agent. But she never acted, however ruinously, without first asking my advice. This advice, much revered for the sympathetic timbre of my voice, was powerfully inconclusive and enabled anyone who accepted it to do exactly what he wanted. It gave an air of second-hand authority to the most absurd decisions, partly because, never taking any actions myself, I had amassed an extraordinary reputation for wisdom. So I adventured vigorously, like some valiant packing and unpacking other people's luggage, before returning from these strange holidays to the orthodoxy of school. In time, these adventures grew wilder: smuggling my mother out of a top-security German hospital; searching far lost earnings in Austria; that sort of thing.

She also gave me my first literary commission—the writing of her letters from Mexico to one of her husbands who kindly invited me to draft his replies. For six months I waged an elaborate long-distance correspondence with myself in which, I noticed, I began to prefer my alter ego's extravagant compliments—"your wonderful letter" etc.

"Friends," wrote Kingsmill, "are god's up for relations." Perhaps greatest of all: the arts of converting one's family friends. But if we, or the sister this transformation, as Kingsmill implies, we make a new family of friends. Patterns formed early years are difficult change and, depending to extent we like or dislike ourselves do we seek either to force those patterns by clinging similar friends or to reborn through love of changing lovers into friends. Our attitude to hol is not a bad test of how useful we have been. Those thirst to establish a league the abolition of Christmas who lay their eternal curse for those who think their indispensable.

I protest against holidays I protest too much. I loathe the word "holidaymaker". I object to hanging an "making" a holiday people I have never met to do so. I like to bank holidays, like a romantic, so that when the real hol to be finally comes, my En puritainism (for English shyness by now hardened into) will not hold me back. All be singing and smiling, laughing and presents. And I shall despise, rather amazingly last.

Michael Holroyd.



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Tonight: *Die Fledermaus*
Tomorrow: *Die Fledermaus*

COVENT GARDEN 7.30-9.30
THE ROYAL OPERA
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RAYMOND GUBRAY presents SUNDAY, 30 DECEMBER, at 7.30 p.m.
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LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA. Conductor: MARCUS DODS

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PERSONAL CHOICE



ara Thompson in Jazz, Janet Street-Porter, in *Saturday Night* (BBC 2, 11.15 pm)

reason I have not said much about Larry Grayson's radio game (BBC 1, 5.30) is simply that there is not much to say about it. It is unchanging and unchangeable, a radio game, however, becomes discernible as the series ends. Ila St Clair, Mr Grayson's assistant, is emerging as a personality in her own right, having done a sustaining hand to Mr Grayson for some time. Mr Grayson himself is showing that he does not need that much as heretofore. He will never be the world's shilliest, nor even the second best. But his more confident or gives us hope that, by the time the next series starts, he will be able to fill out more of the large void left behind Bruce Forsyth across the channel to ITV.

omnibus this for an omnibus film. Jazz, Rock and Marriage 2, 9.00) casts its net wide and lands a pretty hefty catch consisting of musical and matrimonial. Barbara Pearson is a British jazz musician. She was classically trained, jazz tenor, and soprano sax as well as clarinet and flute. Her husband, John Hissman, is a rock drummer. As spouses, they pulled together very well: they also have two children, who are linking professionally. Mr Hissman this year (his wife's quartet, Paraphernalia). Tonight's film illustrates how, in their case at least, two saucer-eyes, one of them, the other commercial—can be kept simmering on the hob without boiling over.

tonight, ITV regaled us with a show in which the can singer-guitarist John Denver ventured into Muppetry. Tonight, the BBC regales us with a show in which Mr Denver ventures into the same territory. I shall understand how these things are ordained. As it happens, never is a pleasant singer and the Muppets are irresistible. Lasting damage is inflicted on our patience. Also, tonight's show has a Christmas flavour, which last night's did not (BBC 1, 8.10).

weekly serial *Two People* (ITV, 10.15) ends tonight. Many teenagers have returned to their respective beds and to school. *Two People* ends with a bang and is made to pay the price for their seeming folly. The work on it in Alick Rowe's sensitive script, is sensible, worked. At no point has this been a love affair in which has been made to rhyme with moon.

llam Alwyn's opera *Miss Julie* (Radio 3, 7.30) is not to me, so I shall probably listen to it if only to see how Mr Alwyn managed to translate Strindberg's words into music. The *Saturday Night Theatre* (Radio 4, 8.30) sounds like fun. *Burglar's Bargains*, by K. Daly, is about two former stalwarts of a prisoners' aid who plan to rob a London store on sales day. It sounds like a comedy.

THE SYMBOLS MEAN: + STEREO; * BLACK AND WHITE; FEAT.

PERSONAL CHOICE



Ogle as Little Nell and Trevor Peacock as Quilp in *Curiosity Shop* (BBC 1, 6.00)

was to be expected, since he is political editor of *the Times*. Fred Emery seeks out the political resonances in the Henry IV, Part 2, in delivering his Shakespeare in *the Henry IV, Part 2*. The play itself is screened at 7.15. I remember his calling up of Mr Nixon, Dr Kissinger, en, Mrs Thatcher and Mr Thorpe. He even manages a references to terrorists and hijackers. I think that Mr Emery, who may not have seen much of his work apart from his fronting of *Panorama*, are in for a surprise when they see him tonight in his less than role of politico-theatre critic.

Henry IV, Part 2 itself, I need say by way of: sharpener is that this is the chronicle play in which the first while drinking companion at the Boar's Head, rebels are crushed yet again. All in all, an impressive treat for next Sunday's Henry V.

week's opening instalment of *London Weekend*'s two-part class given by the Royal Shakespeare Company, while heaven for drama students and speech rhythm analysts, is left some viewers struggling to find a way out of a jumble of pentameters. Tonight's concluding instalment (1.30) is aimed much directly at everyone. It explores Shakespeare's verse gives clues to character, and says soon this is to the actor. We see rehearsed scenes from *Cressida*, listen to Patrick Stewart as he looks back at his use to play *Enobarbus*, and—best of all—hear the actor dissecting *Macbeth*'s "Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow" soliloquy as a pathologist would dissect a mad and then—a Frankenstein—put it all together again in loose on us. This has been an absolutely worthwhile evening by the South Bank Show, an arts programme with which BBC is making no attempt to compete if you exclude eam—which I am afraid you must.

the season of heavy murching and swilling just days of tonight's radio programmes on Radio 4 seem designed to keep us alert, even alive. The Facts and of Dieting (5.00) is a forum for four overweight, and Have Courage, My Boy to Say No (10.15) sounds as about over-indulgence in alcohol. Feedback (Radio 4, 11.00), however, for the gourmet. It is the slot in which air their views about the BBC's output.

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davale

TELEVISION

BBC 1

9.05 am Cut and Thrust: how to improve your eye work. Last of the series.
9.30 Multi-Coloured Swap Shop: Noel Edmonds' all-purpose show for children. Guests include Jimmy Saville.
12.12 pm Weather forecast.
12.15 Grandstand: The line-up is: 12.20 Bob Wilson's football review; 12.30 News; 1.00 Sports; 1.30 News; 1.55 and 2.30; 1.00 Boxing: Pat Thomas v Dave Proust; 2.05 World Cup Snooker; 2.40 World Gymnastics Championships from Fort Worth, Texas; 3.15 International Show Jumping from Olympia; 3.45 Half-time scores; 3.50 Rugby League; 4.00 News; 4.30 Cricket: Australia v England.

BBC 2

2.25 pm Film: *My Side of the Mountain* (1969). Almost true tale of a boy (Teddy Eccles) living alone in the Canadian mountains. Theodore Blue plays his grown-up chum. Cozy, pleasant.
4.05 Play Away: comedy and music show for children. With Brian Cant.
4.30 The Sky at Night: repeat of Tuesday's edition in which Patrick Moore and Michael Benger talk about UFOs and try to reach some conclusions.
5.00 *Hootenanny*: The Fat in the Fire. Repeat of Monday's documentary about the brown fat in our bodies that could make us thinner.

London Weekend

6.40 am *Sesame Street*: American style learning, with the Muppets and others.
9.40 The *Seachambers*: Children's adventure yarn. About three schoolgirl kidnappers.
10.05 *Superman*: our hero becomes a diamond thief.
10.30 *Tiswas*: children's omnibus show. Deliberately luscious in style.
12.30 pm *World of Sport*: The line-up is: 12.30 News; 1.00 Sports; 1.30 News; 1.55 and 2.30; 1.00 Sports; 2.05 World Cup Snooker; 2.40 World Gymnastics Championships from Fort Worth, Texas; 3.15 International Show Jumping from Olympia; 3.45 Half-time scores; 3.50 Rugby League; 4.00 News; 4.30 Cricket: Australia v England.

FILMS ON TV

You might easily overlook the best of the pre-Christmas week, and *London Weekend* (BBC 2, 5.40) is a gem. *The Laurel and Hardy Murder Case* (Friday) is not highly recommended; but in the others the charm of their unique style and wit is still intact. With *Ole*'s massive dignity always following a good intention. In their *First Mistake* (Monday) they adopt a baby; in *Towed in the Hole* (Tuesday) they are in a jam; in *First Mistake* (Monday) they adopt a baby; in *Towed in the Hole* (Tuesday) they are in a jam; in *First Mistake* (Monday) they adopt a baby; in *Towed in the Hole* (Tuesday) they are in a jam.

BBC 1

5.10 News with Kenneth Kendall.
5.25 The *Basil Brush Show*: the fox's guests are Windsor Davies, the comedy actor, and The New Seekers.
5.55 Dr Who: finale of *Nightmare* from the series.
6.20 Larry Grayson's *Generation Game*: last of the present series (see Personal Choice).
7.15 *Picket Army*: Reinhardt comes face to face with Kessler again, and there are preparations for a wedding.
8.10 John Denver and the Muppets: a distinct Christmas flavour for the BBC edition of a show normally seen on ITV.
9.00 Dallas: Bobby learns about his wife's pregnancy and Kristin makes a play for J.R. Is this really how oil-rich Texans behave?

9.00 Jazz, Rock and Marriage: The hosts and professional lives of Barbara Thompson, a British jazz musician, and her drummer husband, Jon Hissman. Miss Thompson runs the quartet called Paraphernalia. (See Personal Choice).
10.00 *News*: 10.00 News and sport.
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Sunday's programmes

TELEVISION

BBC 1

9.00 am *Bob*: the story of Bob and the Park (r).
9.15 The *Sunday Gang*: religion, wrapped up in entertainment.
9.35 *Aladdin*: *Aladdin* and *Aladdin* (r).
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Travel

• We flew down there earlier this year to find Faro airport in its usual state of chaos—the result of trying to move too many people through inadequate facilities. New arrivals from Britain, Germany and the Netherlands milled around the luggage conveyor or tried

The geography of the Algarve is a very simple thing. First, the main towns and sun-baked beaches are all within five miles of the airport. Next more or less halfway along the south facing coast, Tavira right from the mouth of the river, will take you past Olhão and Tavira to the town of the Vila Real de Santo Antonio on the border with Spain. Turn left and take same road, running parallel with the coast, and you will find Lagos, carry you to Lagos and Portimão and Lagos and on to Sagres and the gaunt nobility of Cape St Vincent. *o fim do mundo*—the end of the world—is what the Portuguese named it centuries ago, but they were courageous enough to go there, and they were on and on their voyage of discovery. On the cliff tops there, need to be right on the beaches and to stand to witness myself a little from them and the resorts. One needs the mobility of a hire car, of course, but I believe that this is true of all the Algarve, unless you make a deliberate decision (perhaps because of having small children) to visit a "holiday village" or resort. The Algarve needs exploring, and though the standard of accommodation is especially in some of the new villa and apartment developments, it is ideally suited to anyone wanting an "away from it all" break—on this occasion.

I have said before that the "self catering" style of holiday is the only one of description for it conjures up visions of one member of

The Algarve is pleasant at just about any time of the year, though personally I find it much too hot in summer. A spring holiday is particularly pleasant after one has emerged from the gloom of a British winter and by renting a villa inland and keeping off the tourist track one can particularly enjoy the area at that time of year. How pleasant to relax in the sun on a balcony

John Carter

Collecting

deco is a much debated often misunderstood title properly describes those designers who exhibited in the 1920s. Art Deco? Howard Chusner, the master of realism, also exhibited in *Pavillon de l'Esprit Nouveau* and other designers, such as Gray, Pierre Legrain Marcel Cerdoy, who were associated, were also seen there.

1925 Site? Marc and nann had little to do with Cubism or modernism their work is distinguished in a new field, and akin directly for the best pieces.

The exhibition includes a chaise longue and lounge suite, which would originally have been covered in brightly patterned, synthetic materials. A magnificent handbag, a commode with brightly stained mahogany doors, designed by Mathurin Mehuet, with interior drawers of bird's-eye maple, a favourite wood of the Louis Philippe period, and a cabinet with mother-of-pearl inlaid silver, are possibly one of the finest pieces of French-inspired art deco.

Site et Marc echoed the

He came to Vienna to see the work of the artists and architects of the Werkstätte and when he returned Süe designed complete interiors for Porsche in 1927. In 1928 he set up his own atelier in Paris, producing furniture, fabrics and pottery.

Before the War, Andre Mare had studied painting at the Academie Julian where he met the artists such as Leger, Duchamp and de Segonzac. By 1910 he was designing interiors and furniture for the architect, who collaborated with other artists to produce the *Maison Cubiste* for the Salon d'Automne where

In 1925 the firm exhibited their *Musée d'Art Contemporain* at the Paris Exposition which included their modern reinterpretations and refinements of the Louis XV and Louis XVI periods. They also contributed to the other sections of the exhibition. In 1927 they expanded further their amalgamation of neo-classical idioms and modern influences, this time from Josef Hoffmann's work at the *Stijl* in Weissenhof, a house designed by S.M.A. van der Ende at Saint-Cloud and furnished by the partnership.

on gilt-wood feet with stained wood marquetry and black
e et Mare c.1925.

continued his decorative work. During the 1930s he exhibited with the Société des Artistes-Decorateurs, which included other art deco designers such as Jacques Dunand, Elsie Aron, Fernand Lévy, René Guaita and in 1937 took part in the Paris International Exhibition. Some of his later work was influenced by modernism, as can be seen in a bureau, stool and commode designed in 1933 and included in the 1937 collection, which combines circular aluminium legs with plain ash. Such pieces, however, do

rumen taste in the second, were sublime with the raw vegetables, especially the broccoli and beans."

tion to feed, and plenty of competition to look out for just along the street?

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So much space to explore—underfoot

A small band of enthusiasts gathered in London last week to extol the advantages and delights of what they called, rather unappealingly, "subsurface space" or, in layman's language, the underground. The approach was distinctly evangelical.

To these assorted engineers, businessmen and bureaucrats, the concept of underground living was a serious business and no fit subject for jokes about tunnels, holes or bomb shelters. Neither was there much encouragement for efforts to draw a connexion between the tunnelling industry, which is said to have fallen on hard times lately, and this most recent attempt to regenerate enthusiasm for an engineering concept that has, after all, been around for at least as long as the Metropolitan Line.

The tunnelling fraternity was, nonetheless, conspicuously present. The occasion was in effect a sales pitch for "Rockstore 80", a symposium on the uses of subsurface space to be held in Stockholm next June, sponsored in part by the Swedish government and the United Nations Centre for Natural Resources, Energy and Transport.

Insofar as public attention has been directed underground at all in recent years, the emphasis has been on new ways of burying and, it is hoped, forgetting, deadly pollutants of various kinds, especially radioactive wastes.

The Rockstore organizers see underground space as a natural resource in itself, and argue that we should not confine our use of it to the unwanted products from the surface.

Examples of more creative exploitation are surprisingly numerous. In Oslo, the Norwegian national archives occupy 50,000 metres of shelf space underground. More than a million cubic metres of rock are used as the impalpable rock cavern under the Swedish city of Gothenburg. Throughout the Scandinavian countries, which tend to take the lead in such matters, the subsurface has been applied to cold stores, sewage treatment plants, municipal heating installations, swimming pools and auditoriums.

The Swedes even have a giant wine cellar, where the state monopoly's supplies repose in vast stainless steel urns and not a cobweb in sight.

Enthusiasm can be infectious, even when the idea itself is not immediately attractive. And underground installations do tend to be energy-saving, non-polluting and reasonably cheap. Once the initial costs have been paid, the notion of underground offices, factories, even living accommodation, seemed plausible.

Only later did the doubts—mainly an instinctive, probably ineradicable tendency to claustrophobia—set in. Priceless bits of esoterica tend to surface on such occasions. Never mind the insulating properties of the underground ambience, the diagrams comparing capital investment, social cost-benefit analysis and temperature dispersal.

These pale into insignificance against the news that only one garbage collector in Stockholm is allowed to take his job to retirement age, such are the rigours of above-the-surface waste disposal among the fastidious Swedes; or that ownership of land extends at least in theory, in a wedge shape from the edges of the property to the very centre of the earth.

The discussion of sub-surface space took place at the office of the Swedish trade commissioner on the fourth floor. The smorgasbord was lovely, and the assembled experts seemed to enjoy the view.

Tony Samstag

Lone British outsider with Rosi

One of the advantages of reporting ski races is that from time to time it brings you into contact with Rosi Mittermeier. She will be remembered as the West German charmer who won two gold medals and a silver at the last Winter Olympics at Innsbruck, four years ago.

With another Winter Olympics in the offing, it seemed an appropriate time to take stock of her fortunes since retiring on those glittering laurels. Through the Mark McCormack management organization—otherwise concerned with, among others, such diverse celebrities as Tony Jacklin, Jackie Stewart and Angela Ripston—she entered into contract with seven manufacturers. The three-year contract with McCormack has expired, but most of the manufacturers' agreements remain so that Miss Mittermeier, who springs from a homely family in Winklmoosalm, near the Austrian border south-east of Munich, has

Mrs Thatcher's driving has responded rather dramatically to those too-knowing predictions that there would have to be a U-turn to avert the economic pile-up. By vowing yet further cuts in public spending next year she is in fact pressing ahead—driving through the lights, or even trying to push past on the wrong side. Take your pick of motoring metaphors.

There can be no doubting here of a deliberate change of policy, but it is a hardening one, and typically a riskier one. Last month public spending was not being cut, only held, so we were told. Now there has been another, tougher look. Of course, the Government has all along been committed to reducing public spending, but it has changed its view of the possible.

About the time of the party conferences there had been a faltering of the always-give-it-to-you-straight approach, or at least a muddle of signals. The Prime Minister, in her only published interview so far with a British source (Americans have been better favoured with tomorrow's visit to the United States in mind) professed to "Not" magazine that spending was not in fact being cut. Her interviewer did not believe her. But even Tories all over the country had some difficulty explaining why hospitals were closing and social services cut. Yet to preserve this undoubted accuracy in terms of overall expenditure, the in-word was "stabilizing", holding spending at this year's level when the White Paper came out last month. Ministers explained that they would have liked to cut more but that it could not reasonably be done.

Suddenly, for the first time it is openly admitted at Downing Street and at the Treasury that there are to be

cuts in real terms in spending, and next year, no later.

The details are not yet clear, but there is no doubting that the ending of indexing of benefit payments is very much in Sir Geoffrey Howe's mind. And the Chancellor is after more than the £500m saving reported—that being over and above whatever discount may be extracted from the £1,000m due to our EEC contribution next year. There are harsh political implications in cutting social benefits for those Mrs Thatcher terms the work-shy (and strikers' families, too) while preparing to accept unemployment of two million by the end of 1980. But although "remedial" measures will be on offer to steel towns in a state of shock, the Government seems undeterred by any opinion poll warning signs of intensifying class divisions.

Why the hardening? Economic colleagues will spell out the fine print. But obviously the constraints of monetary policy compel either an increase in taxes or a further cut in borrowing. To increase income tax would be the worst heresy and failure this Government could imagine, so cuts will have to come in spending.

But Mrs Thatcher has not been influenced by political developments in her own party. Complaints solidified in the Conservative M.P.s' 1972 Committee two weeks ago that the Government was not going far enough. One argument was that with lending rate impossibly high the Government should stop pussyfooting with the talk of "stabilizing" spending. "We're damned here the cuts, then cut and be damned again, especially manpower," was the way the message went. Don't give in to the anxious "better not-ers" either in the civil service or the Cabinet ran one theme.

Fred Emery

Cut, cut and be damned

It is this wind from the right quarter that Mrs Thatcher and her economic colleagues have chosen to seek out and catch. Appropriately, it was to the 1922 Committee that Mrs Thatcher gave the news the right-wing wanted. As they banged desks in traditional end-of-term fashion she had a timely reminder, that although applause was nice she hoped they would not "duck the reality" of the backlog certain to come as hard times got worse.

One way she has sought out this wind is by some remarkably direct contact with her backbenchers. She is now reliably reported to be doing twice a week average at the Commons with Conservative M.P.s, the master arranged at random, as it were, by her parliamentary private secretary, Mr Ian Gow. Such contact and access could hardly be in good stead in future troubles.

The decision to gamble high on this first year in office, doing perhaps more unpopular things than has any government since the Second World War, has been heresy and failure this Government could imagine, so cuts will have to come in spending.

When Sir Geoffrey Howe says that, apart from the far-left's "alternative" economy, there is no other policy in the market he means inside the Cabinet.

This is less surprising when put against a more astonishing fact: that there has still been no full Cabinet discussion of economic policy. Ministers met on the immediate economy team are presented with decisions taken by colleagues in committee like so many fairs accomplices. There is time for the odd question, but no encouragement for it; their privilege is a hush, prior notification ahead of the public announcement for the Stock Exchange.

Things have perhaps not changed much since Croomer's time. But the sceptics bide their time. They may indeed be a majority. To imagine that the present Cabinet is made up of right-wingers is clearly inaccurate. At some future fork in the road it would not be a majority that would have to change its mind. But the moment is clearly still a long way off when, say, Whitlaw, Hailsham, Carrington, Pym, Spang, Prior, Gilmore, Walker, St John Stevas, or Carlisle (in order only of Cabinet listing) might move to apply the brakes, if not turn things round.

The full-shed team speak openly in terms of a "decade" in power. The Prime Minister puts it at "two or three governments" (under her leadership) being needed before things can come out right.

This is the tantalising long-haul American President's dream of our time. Mrs Thatcher might ponder in her dash to Washington and New York and back how difficult reelection has become. Two recent incumbents got target fixation, by being—no conclusion by switching from a moving to a diving metaphor—transfixed with hitting the damned thing that they flew straight into it.

appeared, is its chief ornament and has great international prestige. The unique Archaeological Reports, the library and slides collection, and lectures both in London and the provinces are other important activities.

The president of the society, Geoffrey Kirk, Regius Professor of Greek at Cambridge, said: "We want to do more to help those who are fighting tooth and nail to keep the teaching and learning of ancient Greek alive. It is the best of the non-vocational subjects because of its variety, richness, and influence."

The society is right to be vigilant. There are forces in our modern world that are inimical to excellence, and to artistic and intellectual standards. But we must always be drawn to read some of the greatest literature ever written in the original, and to study the basis of our culture. Unless barbarism reaches us, we shall have to wait for the English civilisation until the crack of doom.

Philip Howard

Let's put a stop to the retreat from Greek

Our sure Palladium against the death of Greek, the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies, is celebrating its centenary. This most engaging of learned societies has always embraced both professional scholars and amateurs in the best sense. George Macmillan had the original inspiration, after having gone straight from Eton into the family publishing house and being taken on a tour of Greece as a compensation for not going to university.

The founding fathers included such amateurs as Oscar Wilde and Arthur Balfour. Those were golden days for Greek. The inaugural address showed that travel to Greece was more than a pastime by package holiday: "The Englishman often travels with great advan-

tages, such as the power of visiting out-of-the-way places by yacht." The first vice-president persuaded the government to lend him a warship, an engineer, and sappers for his excavation at Halicarnassus.

When the Hellenic Society celebrated its jubilee *The Times* uttered not one, but two leaders to make Demosthenes spash his teeth with envy. In his jubilee, the society's Murray put the case for the value of Greek studies: "To escape from the anarchy of momentary desires to the Cosmos of reason; to see beyond the prison of the present to the heavenly splires, from which the human spirit draws its life; these seem to me the two needs that are most pressing in the present strange and interesting

and dangerous epoch of world history, and I know of no better way of meeting both needs than through those Hellenic studies which this society is intended to promote."

Today the case is still unanswerable; the needs are even more pressing. The Hellenic Society has celebrated its century fittingly with a colloquium and a delegation to Greece. There is an appeal to consolidate and extend the society's activities; Sir Kenneth Dover at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, will supply further information.

From its beginning the society has conceived Hellenic studies broadly, and its activities today include archaeology and art, language and literature, history and philosophy. Its *Journal*, of which the nine-

ty-ninth issue recently

When the bright lights go out

Every night, a group of tired young people gathers outside a pair of locked gates in London's Soho. At 8pm, the gates are opened, and the Centre-point night shelter begins to fill up with the fortunate ones who have managed to get a bed for the night.

Thousands of young people come to London each year with high expectations. They think, they will find a job, a home and a social life among the bright lights. But they have made no plans; many have walked out with very little money after quarrelling with their parents. And their chance of finding a job, a home and a social life among the bright lights go out, and London becomes an inhospitable place.

After one or two days in the West End, their money probably gone, on a night's accommodation in a hotel and a cheap meal, they become desperate.

Alone, without friends, they begin to sleep rough and arouse for food. Their plight is getting worse, as their numbers increase, and those who are trying to help them face an uncertain future with anxiety.

"We are not only anxious, but angry too, because we are afraid that we may not get the money to carry on because of the Government's expenditure cuts," says Mr Nicolas-Fenton, Centrepoint's coordinator. "We see the young coming to London, drifting and then panicking. They try to establish themselves, but it is a difficult task, and it is not surprising when they fail. We are there to help, but what will happen to them if we are no longer there?"

Exactly 10 years ago, Father Kenneth Leech, then curate of St Anne's Church, Soho, felt that nothing was being done to help the youngsters who saw sleeping rough around Piccadilly Circus.

The basement of the church was opened as a night shelter. It was rough and ready—mattresses on the floor—but it was better than the streets. In 1972, Centrepoint was registered as a charity, and Mr Fenton became coordinator in 1975. There are now 13 full-time workers, backed up by about 50 volunteer assistants.

Every night, they prepare an evening meal, which often includes food given by Soho restaurateurs, and make up the bunk beds in the boys and girls' dormitories. Up to 30 are taken in each night.

"After a meal, the young people can have a chat about their circumstances, and give advice on how to go about getting a job, and how to obtain help from the appropriate agencies," says Mr Fenton. "Generally, we tell the how to survive in London. I have prepared a 'survival guide' which gives a lot of information. They get up, then, and after breakfast, a policeman comes to try to do something positive with their day."

Very few of the young people go straight to Centrepoint. They have tried to make a success of London, and have failed. After a few days, they hear about the night shelter in the grapevine.

"They come out with adequate support, and a policeman or a psychiatrist, social worker. And there is a third group; the ones, only 17 years old, who are on the way to becoming a momentary dream. They are taken in, most staying two or three nights. This year, the number has increased to 3,000. The Government provides £40,000 a year for Centrepoint's £52,000 total cost. But those costs will rise to over £100,000 a year."

"At best, we think that might receive the same amount from government as it is when we need more. This is not just because of inflation but because we are seeing increasing numbers of people here."

"We used to approach a charity to help, but next year we shall be relying on them a lifetime. But they are getting increased demands from other organizations with similar difficulties. I have a problem because I cannot plan more than six months in advance."

"But all around we are a long voluntary project, a hostel being forced to close. It is no wonder that we are frightened for Centrepoint. Centrepoint's case is being of more and more young people, some with '0' in and polytechnic qualification sleeping rough in back alleys and stations."

"If we are forced to restrict services, or close completely, who is going to help the young people who find themselves lost, alone and frightened?"

Penny Syme

Can Governor Brown break out of being a hopeless third?

New Hampshire
The Governor of California, Mr Jerry Brown, got lost in the wilds of New Hampshire the other evening. His convoy of half a dozen cars and one very battered van explored the byways of the day closer when people will get a greater sense of their unity as people on this planet, as opposed to their parochial differences. While this may be a while in coming, nevertheless, as we expand out in space, as we link the world by the nervous system of satellite communications, we will bring this world closer together."

The Governor spoke about ecology. "My first priority is protecting the earth," he said. "We must stop polluting the streams." The United States must give up nuclear energy, ration petrol, control the import of oil, develop "small" hydro, biomass, solar, coal gas. "We must have more inventions, more craft, more skill."

Mr Brown, evidently, is not like other candidates. They stick to safe banalities, while he strikes out on his own, in search for originality. As a result, his frequently sensible remarks are swamped by the total gibberish of the rest of it.

He was asked about relations between President and Congress, and about his lack of experience in Washington. Mr Carter has been frequently

accused of failing to get legislation passed because of his ignorance of the ways of Washington. Mr Brown observed that Washington and Sacramento are really much the same, factually the same problem. "It will bring the day closer when people will get a greater sense of their unity as people on this planet, as opposed to their parochial differences. While this may be a while in coming, nevertheless, as we expand out in space, as we link the world by the nervous system of satellite communications, we will bring this world closer together."

The Governor spoke about ecology. "My first priority is protecting the earth," he said. "We must stop polluting the streams." The United States must give up nuclear energy, ration petrol, control the import of oil, develop "small" hydro, biomass, solar, coal gas. "We must have more inventions, more craft, more skill."

Mr Brown, evidently, is not like other candidates. They stick to safe banalities, while he strikes out on his own, in search for originality. As a result, his frequently sensible remarks are swamped by the total gibberish of the rest of it.

He was asked about relations between President and Congress, and about his lack of experience in Washington. Mr Carter has been frequently

Then he went on to observe that congressional resistance to presidential leadership is not just a dislike of the man in the White House but a reflection of the pressures put upon each Congressman by the voters of his district and the stresses of the times. Congress has always moved slowly with few exceptions at 1933 and the first two years of Lyndon Johnson's presidency. Things will change when the pressures on Congress change, and it is unfair to blame the President for his frustrations.

This is eminently sensible, and a useful corrective to the strident claims of other candidates that what is needed is "leadership"—which each of these professes to be uniquely able to provide.

Mr Brown does not believe in such glib answers. "What I say is not just 'leadership', not just another person, rather a coming together of people of like minds to change the chemistry to create the government



Governor Brown: new world?

condition that will make decisive action possible."

Mr Brown is at least stimulating, perhaps even more than Senator Kennedy. People either admire him and are entranced by the dancing visions of the new world that he offers, or else they are vastly irritated by his charm and persuasiveness on small numbers of New Hampshire.

The technique does not work in large states, such as Massachusetts and Florida, the next two states to hold primaries, with hundreds of thousands of

colleagues before the force of his rhetoric. He is taking part in a public debate with President Carter and Senator Kennedy in Iowa in January and it should be an interesting occasion. The chief snag is that Mr Kennedy's performance, Mr Brown's staff is looking forward to the event as their man's only hope of breaking out of a hopeless third place by demolishing Mr Kennedy.

The New Hampshire primary campaign is the stage of the presidential election during which candidates make themselves known to the electorate. Issues are hardly discussed. Candidates, particularly the outsiders like George Bush, John Connally and the late Mr Brown alone of the Democrats, have to win enough personal converts by direct persuasion to do well in the vote.

A few hundred voters can make all the difference, which is why every candidate is every election since 1968 has followed the example set them by Senator McCarthy, and devoted himself to attending small gatherings at which to exert his charm and persuasiveness on small numbers of New Hampshire.

The technique does not work in large states, such as Massachusetts and Florida, the next two states to hold primaries, with hundreds of thousands of

voters who can only be reached by television. In New Hampshire, each voter can be met, have his hand shaken, have the candidate look him straight in the eyes pronouncing his name, and asking him individually for his help. Indeed, each voter may be thus approached by each of a dozen candidates several times and, if he expresses any intention of voting for one of them, they are minded and driven to the polls by some ardent volunteer.

There are still plenty of people in New Hampshire who were wooed and won by Jimmy Carter in 1976 and who will vote for him again in memory of their discrimination.

In choosing a winner four years ago, Mr Brown is trying to build up the same network of dedicated supporters that Mr Carter found for himself. Mr Carter groomed his honesty and good government. Mr Brown's promises are more diffuse, and he has started much later in the season than Mr Carter.

Mr Brown suffers from the disadvantage of full-time employment. Mr Carter was out of work (as is Mr George Bush this time) and could devote himself to campaigning ceaselessly for two years or more before the first primary. Mr Brown has to govern California in the intervals of campaigning, and if he neglects that job, his

rivals will not fail to draw voters' attention to his dereliction of duty. Mr Carter, indeed, is making a virtue of staying in Washington to mind the ship during the Irish crisis.

And it is an absurd way of choosing a President, but outsiders love it. George Bush and John Connally this time stand no chance at all if primaries were all held in a autumn of the election, with the party conventions following them. They thereby defend the system—as does President, reluctantly; after all, he is the White House however much he would like to abbreviate the competition.

Mr Brown is better known than Mr Carter was, Governor of the most populous state, a beaver of grants, deluged in the West—but still an outsider. It is his misfortune that his first challenges will be in New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Florida, all places inhospitable to him, and two rival the President and the Sena waste no time on sympathy Governor Brown. Neither thinks him a serious candidate, both expect a fight the finish to be decided in summer, perhaps at the convention in New York, in August. It is going to be a long war.

Patrick Brog

WINTER SPORTS DIARY

Lone British outsider with Rosi

One of the advantages of reporting ski races is that from time to time it brings you into contact with Rosi Mittermeier. She will be remembered as the West German charmer who won two gold medals and a silver at the last Winter Olympics at Innsbruck, four years ago.

With another Winter Olympics in the offing, it seemed an appropriate time to take stock of her fortunes since retiring on those glittering laurels. Through the Mark McCormack management organization—otherwise concerned with, among others, such diverse celebrities as Tony Jacklin, Jackie Stewart and Angela Ripston—she entered into contract with seven manufacturers. The three-year contract with McCormack has expired, but most of the manufacturers' agreements remain so that Miss Mittermeier, who springs from a homely family in Winklmoosalm, near the Austrian border south-east of Munich, has

become almost willy-nilly a business woman.

But as a lone outsider, set among the German contingent at Val d'Isère in the French Alps last week, I quickly learnt that she was no unscrupulous go-getting tycoon. From the start, Rosi (nobody calls her anything else) insisted that all her business operations would have to do with her sport—ski, boots, clothing, etc.—and that she would have to be involved in the design and development as well as in marketing.

She refused to have any truck with cosmetics (which she clearly does not use) or toothpaste (which, just as clearly, she does). I asked her if a million marks would tempt her into cigarette advertising. "Never," she retorted. English, with the emphasis on firm commitment. She claims she is not the wealthy woman people take her to be, after paying 25 per cent to the McCormack organization, for three years at least, and 40 per cent to the government.

It houses four tennis courts, two squash courts, six bowling lanes and a restaurant. Her close relationship with Neureuther is well known and I asked her, now 29, about marriage. Yes, that would be possible if Christian gave up ski racing after the Olympics in February. And when might we see a baby Mittermeier? I asked, thrown off guard by that dazzling, dimpled smile and winning personality. Perhaps next year, she said. "but it will be a baby Neureuther". Lucky man.

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Vale of tears

The reply came par: "February 12 at two minutes past eight." It is a tragic date in Val d'Isère history, engraved deep in the memory of Michel Grosjean, director of the UCPA centre there. The Union de Centres de Plein Air is a government-backed organization, designed to encourage young people to indulge in healthy activities far from the polluted atmospheres of industrial areas.

The UCPA was crowded that horrid morning, when Val d'Isère became a vale of tears. It suddenly became as dark as night, Mr Grosjean recalled,

and the main building was engulfed by one of the heaviest avalanches the Alps had known. Forty lives were lost, including two on the road outside, as a weight of powder snow estimated at 10,000 tons shot down the Dome mountain opposite at a speed approaching 200 mph. It bore a parallel to Aberfan's home.

The snow poured into the broken windows and only 60 of the 98 young people in the northern dining room escaped. The remainder were suffocated, there against the far wall of the room.

This, of course, is now haunting history. But I was surprised to see the building, a sturdy structure mainly of functional concrete (hence the name, "Centre de Plein Air"), still in place. There was no point in evacuating it permanently, "otherwise we would have had to evacuate half of Val d'Isère".

Out of sight, however, barriers have been erected over the site of the disaster, and the Dome to prevent a recurrence and arrangements for temporary evacuation have been made, not only for the UCPA but elsewhere, against the remote possibility of a second tragedy.

But few people can visualize another blizzard blowing from the south at 180 mph for four days on end, and depositing eight metres of snow in a short time. After five years the UCPA building was reopened. I suggested there was still a risk. Certainly, "but there is always danger in the mountains and what would life be without some element of risk?"

Agree with him or not, most people, including the British ski team, accept that he practices what he preaches. The Foyer de Ski is the cheapest hotel in Val d'Isère at 25 francs (less than £10), full board just now, rising to 95 francs in winter. It is a touch of class distinction in the fact that locals eat off bare tables, whereas tourists are provided with table cloths. Mr Dumais has a ready answer. The locals pay 10 francs less for a meal.

Chic but cheap

Val d'Isère is a chic and expensive ski resort, not the kind of place you would expect to find an hotelier like Albert Dumais. Advance information told me he was a communist, but it was not all that wide of the mark. He described himself as an "homme de gauche", though belonging to no party. He is an admirer of the Soviet Union and believes that much of what we read about that country is exaggerated.

In 1969 he and his wife, who does not share his political leanings, spent three weeks touring by car in the Soviet Union. He said that they had suffered no kind of restriction

wherever they went, from Leningrad to the Black Sea, and were rarely asked to show identity papers. Dissidents? By all accounts have dissidents. Had not Victor Hugo been driven out of France?

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No doubt it is all very innocent—but not everyone agrees. The French television authorities are among the doubters, with the result that the sponsors were prevented from flaunting their banners when the World Cup races were held at Val d'Isère.

The initiative for the link between cigarettes and clothing, I am told, came from Italy, where a manufacturer hit upon the idea of branching his wares under an already well-known motif. He pays the Philip Morris organization, makers of the cigarettes concerned, royalties on his products. But his dependence on the big combine is such that public relations at Val d'Isère were undertaken by a company employed by Philip Morris.

The International Ski

Federation refused to say how much the sponsorship is costing the clothing manufacturer, but an authoritative guess was £250,000. The turnover of Marlboro-Leisure Wear is £1,500,000. The turnover of Philip Morris Inc last year was \$6,632,463,000.

John Hennessy

Hard day at the office party, darling.





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WINTER ELECTION FOR CANADA

The prospect of an election campaign in Canada's February weather must be daunting for any Canadian politician, but probably Mr. Joe Clark and the Progressive Conservative Party can see a bright side to the debacle of their defeat on the budget after only six months in office. Since the end of the summer recess, they have had a difficult parliamentary passage, relying for their survival on the restraint of the New Democratic Party and the support of the five Social Credit votes. When Mr. Trudeau suddenly announced his decision to retire from the leadership of the Liberal Party, a favourable period must have seemed to be dawning for as early a dissolution as was practicable, since no Liberal to assume his mantle seems available. In the event the opposition parties have combined to force the dissolution at a most inauspicious time. It is now a matter for anxious calculation how the electorate will react to his unnecessary inconvenience, and who they will blame and punish for it.

It is difficult to see how Mr. Trudeau could stand by his decision to go. The Liberal had been to hold a leadership convention in March, the first since Trudeau's sweeping away and gave Pierre Trudeau a dominant position for eleven years in which no alternative leaders could establish themselves. Mr. John Turner and Mr. Donald Macdonald have both declared they would not compete in March. Without Mr. Trudeau, under some unimpressive compromise interim leader, the Liberals would face a winter campaign at a grave disadvantage. Mr. Trudeau, after all, himself voted against the budget, now the possible outcome, he now seems duty bound. But

his position is still awkward for he can hardly say that he will lead the party only to relinquish office immediately after the proposed convention if the Liberals win; for then the Conservatives would claim the electorate did not know who or what they were voting for on the Liberal ticket. Yet for him now to promise to continue in office if he wins will suggest that Pierre Trudeau is only prepared to serve Canada as the boss, and in no other parliamentary capacity. Mr. Trudeau has now had his tiff with the Toronto Liberal bigwigs who think him a liability, but the cost may be heavy.

On the other hand, the Conservative record is not very impressive. It has made little impact. Mr. Clark has not fulfilled his pledges on economic growth and lower interest rates, but world and American trends have been against him. The "privatisation" of the national oil company, while agreeable to Conservative preferences for untrammelled capitalism, goes against Conservative dislike of business and American stranglehold on Canada's economy. There was the gaffe about moving the Canadian embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, and other symptoms of inexperience of affairs. But at least Mr. Clark was setting sensible terms with the over-enthusiastic provinces. His anti-inflationary budget proposals were appropriate; moreover, six months in office is hardly a fair trial. This the electorate will doubtless note.

There is a feeling in Canada that social forces are moving in favour of the New Democratic Party, led by Mr. Broadbent. It is speculated that in a new election by summer, they would gain substantially. It was the NDP motion against raising oil prices

by putting up the excise to bring them in line with world realities, that brought the government down. North Americans find it hard to recognize the unreality of subsidized oil, but the Canadian press is finding Mr. Broadbent's action in this case too blatantly political to swallow. It may be that the Canadian voters will likewise react against the NDP for uncharacteristic opportunism, reflecting that it was perfectly willing to keep a minority, albeit Liberal, government in power between 1972 and 1974, and indeed to make quite a good government of it.

Thus there is a possibility that Mr. Clark may emulate Mr. Harold Wilson's feat in 1966. But the result is more likely to be another hung federal parliament, and who will emerge as Prime Minister is extremely dubious. But one consideration of great importance ought to be noted: all the signs pointed to Mr. Clark making a better job of dealing with the Quebec referendum on secession next year than Mr. Trudeau would do. Mr. Trudeau's services to Canadian unity are unquestionable. But the referendum could become a family quarrel between himself and Mr. Lévesque, between Ontario and Quebec, and that would give Mr. Lévesque important advantages.

Mr. Clark was clearly relying more upon the growing opposition to secession behind Mr. Claude Ryan in Quebec itself; and Mr. Clark's intimations that the Canadian constitution was flexible enough to accommodate Quebec's real needs while maintaining Canada as one entity showed a sense of statesmanship in a rising crisis. It will be said—and not only for Canada, but for Britain and the West—if the beneficiary of this Ottawa debacle is Mr. René Lévesque.

THE LORDS HAVE LEFT IT TO MR PRIOR

The Government has been faced with a dilemma. It had opted to avoid, now that the House of Lords has granted the appeal by the National Union of Journalists against the Employment Bill, the case involved lacking against people not directly parties to a dispute between the NUJ and provincial proprietors. In its manifesto at last election, the Conservative Party pledged itself to ensure that the protection of the law is available to those not concerned directly from secondary action picketing, blocking and blocking. The Government, anxious to get a low-profile employment Bill through with a minimum of fuss, had initially hoped that the judges would deal with blocking for it. Lord Denning in the Court of Appeal had found that the unionists' action was too remote from the original dispute for the statutory immunity given to acts done "in contemplation or furtherance of trade disputes". Now a majority of the Lords have made an inherently dangerous ruling at the test is a purely subjective one: if a trade unionist genuinely expects blocking to further his cause in a dispute, he would be entitled to force action against actions in tort, regardless of the harm that his conduct might mean while do elsewhere. Lord Wilberforce, on the slightly different ground that the blocking must be reasonably capable of advancing the aims of the strikers, but this—though a more defensible position than that of a fellow Lords—is a relatively narrow divergence, as secondary action can often bring strong direct pressure on an employer settle.

Secondary blocking and picketing are relatively minor but significant weapons of coercion that trade unionists can use to frustrate the innovations in production methods and manning levels that Britain desperately needs. Both have been used freely and irresponsibly in recent months, and enable strikers to turn a dispute not only against their employer, but also against a whole market, or the public as a whole. Secondary picketing is rightly to be denied the protection of the law: it would be anomalous to continue the same protection for blocking, which is a similar, almost interchangeable tactic, and can be even more hurtful economically than picketing. Blocking lacks that close relationship with intimidatory mass demonstrations, illegal but hard to control ("blocking"), which makes picketing an especially sensitive issue. But the two are so closely related that it would be nonsensical to restrict one and not the other.

Widened to include secondary blocking, the Bill would be more vulnerable than now to the charge that it is an attack on traditional union rights, rather than an attempt to control abuses whose existence many unionists privately admit. Since the public campaign by the unions against it has been so undiscriminating, this is a small loss. It is already clear that the Bill, modest and even inadequate though it is, is not going to be accepted by the trade unions as a permanent measure; adding secondary blocking does not therefore risk the loss of its chances of acceptance.

Two questions arise: would the law work; and would it create martyrs? As to its working, nobody expects that em-

ployers will frequently think it worth their while to go to law to protect themselves from the effects of secondary picketing or blocking. Yet the possibility of their doing so will be there, and with a movement basically law-abiding and anxious not to squander union funds, that will influence the atmosphere. In any case there are people who would invoke the law; the farmer whose pigs are starving, for instance. The new law might not restrain dockers from blocking imports of coal or steel in support of striking miners or steelworkers, but even then it would make the unions concerned consider their legal position.

The danger of creating martyrs might be increased by putting blocking into the Bill, though it is already there, in relation to secondary picketing. It was the cases involving court injunctions that did more than anything else to sap wider public confidence in the 1971 Act. As the new Bill stands, an interlocutory injunction could lead a trade unionist to the glory and publicity of a prison sentence for contempt of court in relation to either secondary picketing, or blocking if that were added. Yet the employer cannot be denied the use of the injunction—unlike a suit for damages, it is the only sanction that can be made to bite at once. The Bill should be amended, therefore, to provide that any proceeding under it by way of injunction should be enforceable only by fines and not by imprisonment. It is true that a really determined martyr would even so be able to refuse to pay and invoke a visit from the bailiffs, and the loss of his television set or even his house. But it would make martyrdom a good deal less easy and attractive of sympathy than the normal procedure under common law.

Reviving Civil Defence From Sir Kelvin Spencer, Sir, Councillor David Chambers' admirable letter (December 11) is indeed timely and in the national interest. He is right in saying that the present Home Office civil defence plans are outdated and ineffective. The present Government has accepted that high priority be given to defence. But any defence policy will lack credibility that does not provide for the survival of the home base. And, since the Civil Defence Corps was stood down in 1968, there have been no effective means of protecting the population under attack and of stimulating the will to recover after attack.

A recent home defence exercise involving several counties showed that the best form of civil defence in this nuclear age is to plan and organize for survival and recovery at the smallest unit of population: the rural parish and urban community. A quick, cost-effective way of achieving civil defence capability is to raise county emergency volunteers at parish and community level. Our Devon Emergency Volunteers, recognized by the Home Office and supported by the County Council, have already recruited and trained 800 members.

Local enthusiasm is there: the need is for national leadership. The Home Office is not providing this. Thank goodness *The Times* is back to bring its influence to bear to wake up Westminster and Whitehall to the need for action. Yours faithfully, KELVIN SPENCER, Wootton, Branscombe, Seaton, Devon.

Inland Revenue's powers of search

From Mr Anthony P. Newbold

Sir, Between May and June 1976 you were kind enough to print several letters from above the search that the then Government was proposing to grant to the Inland Revenue. The warnings were unheeded and the powers were granted.

These powers have now been used and tried and tested in the Courts in the *Rossminster* case culminating in the judgment of the House of Lords reported in your columns today (December 14).

The worst fears that I (and others) expressed at the time these powers were proposed to be introduced have now been confirmed and a most daring public attack made upon the liberty of the subject with the full connivance of Parliament.

Despite the platitudes uttered in Parliament that the powers were only needed to deal with "the criminal element", the first major use of the powers has been directed against a well-known tax avoidance group. There is nothing illegal about tax avoidance. It is legal under the law. Nevertheless, because the Revenue suspect fraud (whatever that might mean) they are able to search and take away papers, including children's papers, without having to disclose what offence is suspected.

This means that for the first time in well over 200 years the spectre of the General Warrant, as its ugly head in English law, has been resurrected. This occurred in the early 1760s a prominent English judge said: "To enter a man's house by virtue of a nameless warrant, in order to procure evidence, is worse than the Spanish Inquisition: a law under which no Englishman would wish to live on his own; it was a most daring public attack made upon the liberty of the subject."

It now seems that the proverbial Englishman's home is no longer his castle, nor indeed any sort of refuge in 1979. It is but a short time until 1984. Yours faithfully, A. P. NEWBOLD, The White House, Datchet Road, Old Windsor, Berkshire, December 14.

Cuts and church schools

From Mr G. E. Hester

Sir, It is a paradox of politics that one's friends may do more harm unwittingly than one's enemies. There are outright opponents of church schools, but the Conservative Party has not been numbered among them. Yet its proposed education Bill, by relieving local authorities of the necessity of providing free transport to schools, could have a devastating effect on church schools.

It is not enough to say that the Bill will leave decisions about transport to local authorities. The Government in its provision for education via the rate support grant clearly expects authorities to make savings in transport. Further, any authority any year could cut back on transport using this as a weapon against church schools.

Church schools, especially secondary schools, would be hit very badly because they normally draw on a much wider catchment area than county schools. At my own school, a Roman Catholic secondary school, some two thirds of the pupils receive free transport at the moment and this is in Greater Manchester not a country area. Charges of £1.50 a week per child have been mentioned.

Education cannot be spared entirely from cuts but the transport clause of the education Bill introduces a new principle: it is not just a cut. At no time during the election campaign was even the possibility of this measure mentioned and therefore, to put it into practice would be to break an election pledge, albeit a tacit one.

Yours etc, G. E. HESTER, Headmaster, St Joseph's R.C. Secondary School, Bolton.

High sheriff's role

From Lieutenant-Colonel R. W. C. Charlton

Sir, As not all that long ago I was the fifteenth member of my family to be a High Sheriff, perhaps I may be allowed to comment on the High Sheriff of North Yorkshire's letter of December 10. Nothing new, surely, is really necessary. The judges, both High and County Court, must be attended "as first priority. Then good works. Follow the instruction of Queen Elizabeth for the role of the sheriff: to be a binding influence within the county." So police, councils when invited, prisons, etc, should be visited and county charities supported by modest financial help or, better still, personal involvement.

Incidentally, what a pleasure and honour it was to have sat on a number of occasions with Mr Justice Cantley. Yours faithfully, WINGATE C. CHARLTON, Canfield Park, Wakefield, Essex.

Public lending right

From Miss Bridget Brophy and Miss Maureen Duff

Sir, Your period in abeyance has perhaps disturbed your sense of time. Public Lending Right, which your Arts Reporter describes as "leading for the state book" (December 2) was in fact introduced on the statute book in March 1979. The Act requires the Government to place before Parliament a detailed scheme for implementing the payments to writers, and it is this phase of the operation that Mr St John-Stevens has, happily, been able to assure us is going ahead on schedule.

Yours truly, BRIDGET BROPHY, MAUREEN DUFFY, Writers Action Group, 3/185 Old Brompton Road, SW5.

Splitting the Labour Party

From Lady Burton of Coventry

Sir, Have we, the radical centre of the Labour Party, at last reached the stage when more of us are willing to put our heads above the parapet? If not, then we shall have no heads left. These will have been cut off—one by one. Today we are looking at a possible if not probable disaster for those of us who believe in what the Labour Party used to stand for.

This is not an extremist country. It does not want extremist policies either of left or right. There is widespread fear and genuine apprehension that the Labour Party, as expressed in your leader of November 23, we are indeed seeing manipulation and not democracy by this minority in the party. Some of us have felt that the best way to try to change this was to remain members and make our voices heard from the inside rather than go out and have the field to extremists. But now the problem is—for how long can this be the best way?

In his letter today (December 11) Mr Anderson speaks of the many traditional Labour voters who voted Tory in May for the first time in their lives. It is true that more and more are becoming disaffected with the strife in the Labour Party—strife that in most cases is being deliberately fomented by left extremists, Trotskyists and Trotskyists. Indeed, the National Executive Committee has once more refused even to consider the report made by their former national agent (now Lord Underhill) on Trotskyist infiltration into the party.

This military factor is certainly not for me nor, I suspect, for many others. Obviously it is not for Mr William Rodgers nor for Mr Roy Jenkins.

Sir, it is no use waiting any longer. Waiting has for far too long been the policy of the left extremists who have seen the left as a completely safe haven, whether or not to intervene.

Mr Rodgers believes that if the battle should split the party, the left should not suppose the inheritance would be theirs. I too believe this. I think people want a strong Opposition: one that truly represents the radical moderate views

held by so many disenchanted Labour voters. Mr Rodgers is right—we cannot wait any longer.

Yours faithfully, BURTON OF COVENTRY, House of Lords.

From Mr John Jenkins Sir, As a member of the Labour Party, I feel it is time that I put in my two pence worth of protest at the one-sided treatment of the current debate in the party by the media and by others who appear to have only the most superficial knowledge of how the party operates.

Your correspondent, J. G. Anderson falls into the trap set by others when he refers to "left extremists, agitators and Trotskyists". Are there no extremists on the right? May I point out the following facts:

1. The Labour Party always has been a coalition across a broad spectrum politically.
2. The term "social democrats" when applied to those who are not prepared to accept the will of the majority is a misnomer.

3. Members of Parliament will form a majority of the Committee of Enquiry.
4. Over the years, many persons obsessed by their own personal ambition rather than the good of the party have transferred their allegiances elsewhere, and the party has somehow survived.

5. To talk of "humiliating" a leader is the sort of cant one expects from those who are unable to recognize that by its very concept socialism is totally opposed to elitism. The leader of the party is entitled to the same amount of respect, no more and no less, than any other party member. Sympathy of the kind displayed at the last Conservative Conference is completely alien to our belief that all men and women are equal.

6. Ninety-nine per cent of all Labour Party members do not regard themselves as either "left" or "right" wing. They prefer instead to stand united in their belief in the ideal for which we strive, a fair, just and classless society.

Yours sincerely, JOHN JENKINS, 24 Charles House, Bolton, Lancashire.

Amalgamating schools

From Mr P. A. Newsam

Sir, In his article, December 6, on secondary school reorganization and Highbury Grove School, Mr Butt fails to distinguish fact from gossip.

Over the next few years the Inner London Education Authority proposes to reduce 16 secondary schools in Hackney and Islington to seven. As Mr Butt recognizes, sharply falling pupil numbers argue for a reduction on this scale.

The advice of ILEA officers to their education committee was that the process should take place through a series of amalgamations, involving all 16 schools, rather than by closure, which would involve nine. There can be argument about whether this advice was or was not based on hard-won experience, but it has proved just possible to keep effective education going in one or two schools as they are run down to closure, to attempt this with nine schools in a comparatively small area was to invite disaster.

On the other hand, experience of amalgamations shows that, despite the difficulties and stress that they cause, the results are good in two respects: the schools that remain popular and effective; and the depth of educational effort, if anything, enhanced. I do not know why Mr Butt should suppose that amalgamation leads to reduced curricular opportunities. That is both untrue and irrational.

Damaged children

From Mr Peter Large

Sir, It was fine to read in your third leader (December 7) that disabled children should "all be cared for according to need and not, as under existing law, according to whether they had the good fortune to be able to put the blame for their injuries on to someone else."

This "compassionate approach" as you rightly call it, has been advocated by the Disability Income Group for many years for both adults and children. Progress towards the national disability income that this approach demands has been depressingly slow under all governments and we still lack an essential element: the disablement costs allowance to help offset the heavy extra costs of living with a disability.

However, the previous Government did at least agree to start work on a Green Paper on the dis-

ablement costs allowance. This work was stopped by the present Government because, as the Minister for Social Security explained to DIC, "there is no money at present for any new benefits and it would be a false hope" if there were "detailed discussions now on the format of an allowance which could not possibly materialize for some years."

Disabled people may have to accept they will suffer unduly in the current money situation, but it is so bad that they must accept we cannot plan now for a better future? A bleak future awaits disabled people if we cannot afford even to discuss the "compassionate approach" in case it raises false hopes.

Yours sincerely, PETER LARGE, Disability Income Group, 14 Birch Way, Warrington, Surrey.

EEC MPs' revolt

From the Director of the European Movement

Sir, The historic decision of the European Parliament to reject the 1980 EEC budget by a massive majority drawn from all countries and parties, demonstrates that, when national interests are subordinated to the wider good of the Community, fairness and common sense are more likely to prevail.

Britain's best allies in the pursuit of a more sensible common agricultural policy and a fairer distribution of Community funds are the Euro-

pean Parliament and the European Commission, whose first allegiance is to the whole Community and its citizens.

Here is a clear pointer to our own Government in its pursuit of justice in the new Community. It is financed. It is, furthermore, an unequivocal answer to all those who have opposed the European elections and dismissed the exercise of European democracy.

Yours faithfully, FRNEST WISTRICH, 1A Whitehall Place, SW1, December 13.

was substantiated more thoroughly than anyone can have dared to hope. "To say that Régine Crespin gave a highly successful recital would be an understatement." These quotations are taken from three different newspapers.

Like them, we enjoy different interpretations of the same music, and we do not feel that these songs must be performed in a set way. We found this an exceptional evening.

Yours faithfully, WILLIAM LYNE, Manager, Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore Street, W1, December 10.

Where may au pairs come from?

From Mrs Irene Bruce

Sir, As a working mother with a young child, I am perturbed by the government proposals to stop au pairs entering from outside Europe. It is exceptionally difficult to find European girls wishing to stay for longer than a few months. Most of them find £15 per week inadequate to cover their living expenses and clothes consumption, and do not seriously try to take language courses.

On the other hand the Japanese whom I invite take their stay with my family much more seriously as a meaningful attempt to understand our lives and language and to make real friendships before they return to their own country. What evidence is there that these girls abuse our hospitality while European girls do not?

Yours faithfully, IRENE BRUCE, 15 Dorla Road, SW6, December 13.

From Miss J. Lukacs

Sir, As the largest au pair agency in this country, we are naturally interested in the little publicized Government proposals to restrict the entry of au pairs to persons from Western Europe who are under 25 (the present age limit being 30). As Europe has become generally more prosperous than ourselves, young Europeans have become reluctant to stay with British families for any length of time on pocket money which cannot compare with the spending power of their wages in their own country.

Moreover, Community nationals have the right to seek and get employment here. The pattern of invitations from British families has therefore inevitably shifted outside Europe to girls from Japan, South America and Israel, who are willing to stay for a year or two. We are increasingly asked for older girls on whom families can better rely.

Many of your readers will not have realized what a drastic effect the new proposals will have on the supply of au pairs to British families. Certainly the proposals affect over half the business of this agency and of many other agencies who have contacted me. The Government must be aware of this.

I have written to the Home Office and to the Ministry of Education and Science to decide, but there are two points I can properly make:

The first is that the schools suggested for amalgamation were put forward by myself on the basis of professional advice available to me. Politicians then had to decide whether to accept that advice or not. No one from either political party asked me to include or exclude any particular school in my consultative document. Mr Butt may not choose to believe this but neither political party in the ILEA behaves like that.

Secondly, even gossip should be plausible and it is ingenious as well as untrue to believe that inclusion in amalgamation proposals suggests disapproval of the schools concerned. The successful amalgamations over the past few years have all been based on highly regarded schools. The evidence is there if Mr Butt chooses to look at it.

Finally, it is not true that Highbury Grove has no support when it is attacked. Earlier this year the school and its headmaster were treated unfairly in the local press. Unqualified support was offered immediately. I know because I wrote the letter myself.

Yours faithfully, PETER NEWSAM, Education Officer, Inner London Education Authority, The County Hall, SE1, December 7.

Collective decisions

From the Chairman of the Supplementary Benefits Commission

Sir, It seems cheerless to correct a sympathetic and perceptive account of the work of this Commission (Policies of Poverty, December 12) but I must stress that the SBC has right members—not just a Chairman. We take collective decisions, and depend on Ministers and an unusually able team of officials to achieve the things we want to do. I am not the first SBC Chairman in visit; local social security officers and claimants. My predecessors did like me.

Yours etc, DAVID DONNISON, Chairman, Supplementary Benefits Commission, New Court, Carey Street, WC2, December 13.

Selling Britain

From Mr Egon Ronay

Sir, The Herculean task of the British Tourist Authority's task in four United States areas (Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles and New York) is not sufficiently realised. Nor is it duly appreciated that, particularly in the first three, their representatives whose work I experienced very recently, often fill the role of accomplished diplomats almost single handed. Their beneficial influence on regional public opinion of Britain goes far beyond their brief to sell tourism.

May I say that all three operatives are of a remarkably high calibre, but are absurdly over-stretched and under-staffed, each covering substantially bigger areas than the five of Britain. They, together with the New York area, are our most lucrative markets for invisible export, with remembering when the BTA's inadequate funds are being reallocated by the Government next time.

Yours faithfully, EGON RONAY, Egon Ronay Organisation, Greenock House, Francis Street, SW1, December 13.

Imperial welcome

From Lord Reading

Sir, No doubt there were many entertaining variations, in our Imperial years, on the theme of Lord Caradon's delightful story in his letter dated December 11. It may perhaps be worth recalling the message on a banner which greeted my grandparents on one of their State visits in India. It read: "God bless the Viceroy: God help Lady Reading". Yours faithfully, READING, House of Lords, December 12.

Journalists' closed shop

from the General Secretary of the National Union of Journalists

After this Government's Protection of Official Information Bill so what can the public and the journalists who serve them expect in the Employment Bill, aimed at correcting an imbalance between employee and employer? The Bill proposes to sweep away at part of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act of 1974 which provided for the drawing up of a less charter that some believed was an essential safeguard where journalists and their employers wish to negotiate a closed shop.

Under the provision the parties had for a year, made some progress, but failed to agree on all points. The differences were reported to the then Government, which continued its attempts to seek resolution until its fall from office. In abandoning this approach before it was too late, the Government is anxious to be treated equally to other trade unionists, although a union has for a long time quipped considerably more than 50 per cent favourable poll against the Bill's proposals for allowing members to negotiate a post-entry closed shop. But there is a need for them to be stated equally.

Employers of provincial journalists, encouraged by the absence of press charter, continue to deny news shops on the excuse that they wanted for purpose other than effective collective bargaining. Their final offer in current negoti-

ations on behalf of our 8,500 members is 14½ per cent, yielding starting salary rate for an experienced, fully-qualified journalist of £82.50. The gross average weekly earnings of male non-manual workers in April this year was £113. At the same date, 52 per cent of all journalists over 21 were receiving less than £75 a week, and 29.9 per cent less than £100. Without doubt most of these journalists were in the provincial newspaper field.

While the rest of Europe, losing more days through strikes than ourselves, is increasing holidays and shortening hours, provincial journalists in England are being offered no extra time off and a continuation of an 80-hour working fortnight. Trainee journalists start at under £50 a week, get less holidays, and have to serve out an indenture period which can last up to three years before they come on to senior rates.

So, is the Government really justified in continuing to deny journalists the means of negotiating a closed shop to improve their working conditions through effective collective bargaining? Or, continuing its theme to employers that they must be free from Government intervention in their negotiations, how else does it propose to correct the imbalance between provincial journalists' pay and their employers' profits?

Yours faithfully, KEN ASHTON, General Secretary, National Union of Journalists, Acorn House, 314/320 Gray's Inn Road, WC1, December 11.

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

International bonds

Currency choice widens the options

With the lifting of exchange control regulations in October, investors were able to invest in a wider range of international funds. But those investing abroad should not underestimate the risk they are still taking when it comes to fluctuating exchange rates. Just how much they are exposed to these movements, which can be quite sharp, depends on how the money is invested abroad.

Single premium bonds linked to a life company's international fund is one way an investor can get a stake in overseas markets. There are now around 30 such funds from which to choose, the majority investing in a wide variety of countries.

Just where the money is invested varies from fund to fund. Not surprisingly, the American market, which accounts for some 55 per cent of world stock market capitalisation, often makes up a good chunk of the fund's portfolio.

But both the M & G and Trident international bond funds have a comparatively low exposure to Wall Street coupled with a higher than average investment in countries in the Pacific Basin.

Chief fund managers also pursue this policy. Its international unit trust, which provides the underlying single premium bond link, is 70 per cent invested in the Pacific Basin with the remainder in both American and United Kingdom special situation shares.

Two funds with an "international" banner—Merchant Investors and Solar—are totally invested in Wall Street—although the managers do not intend that this will always be the case.

If this is what you want you can also consider the United States Invested Funds run by Cannon and Trident Life at present standing at \$5.2m and \$2.7m respectively. Alternatively some groups—such as

M & G and Save & Prosper—offer their unit trusts invested in specific areas as a single premium bond link.

Good performance on these international funds hangs on being in the right market at the right time. But currency fluctuations can also leave their mark here.

Since October, fund managers have been able to invest directly in overseas markets by buying foreign currencies rather than using the now defunct dollar premium, or loan facility route. Acting on this new found freedom Barclays, M & G and Schroder have wound up their loan facilities in favour of investing totally through the currency. Among the smaller funds, Crown Life, Guardian Royal Exchange and Manufacturers Life also favour this route.

Investors in these funds therefore take the double risk of investing not only in the stock market of a particular country but also in its currency—which does not always move in the same direction. Although most fund managers will keep their options open to invest through loans if currencies start to move rapidly and sterling weakens.

For those of a nervous disposition there is a certain attraction to funds investing in loans in that the risk of currency fluctuations is reduced. As a currency hedges the managers borrow, rather than buy, the appropriate currency to fund the investments against collateral held in sterling.

Solar Life, for example, has retained its loan facilities accounting for some 30 per cent of the fund, while Legal & General and Vanbrugh have been running down their loans. Earlier this year both were virtually fully invested through loans which now account for some 30 per cent and 50 per cent of the fund respectively. Trident, also previously invested through loans, has wound up the expensive ones, while Sun Alliance is now investing

its new money directly.

These companies have no hard and fast rules as to how they will invest their funds in the future. This very much depends on their views at any time on a particular currency vis-à-vis sterling.

Conversely, the policy at Merchant Investors, says managing director Edward Fairman, is to reduce the exchange rate risk as much as possible. To this end it therefore intends to carry on investing entirely through loan facilities.

At present, investment managers are still digesting the possibilities open to them following the abolition of exchange control regulations. They now have the opportunity, if not the expertise, to invest both in stock markets and currency markets.

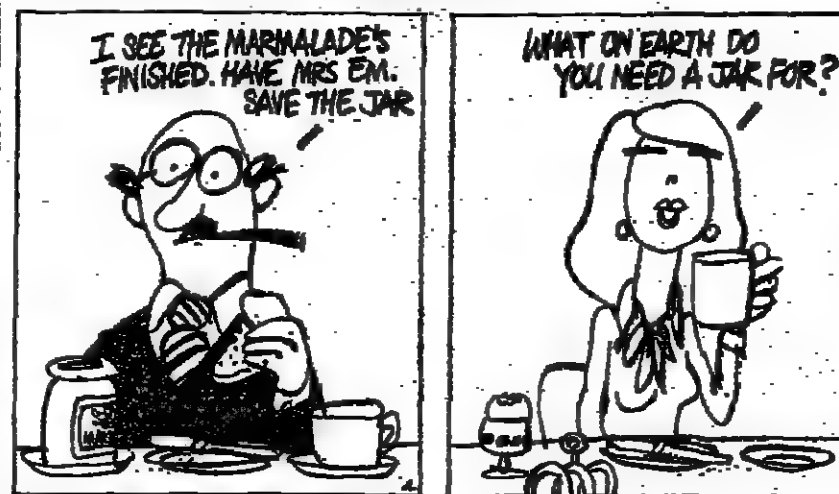
For example, £1,000 destined for Wall Street can be split so that the dollar equivalent of £500 is invested directly in the market. The remainder gives collateral against a dollar loan also invested in the United States. But this collateral does not necessarily have to be held in sterling—a short-term fixed interest security in Deutschmark could provide a better return.

Such a proposition brings a variety of reactions from fund managers. While Vanbrugh it "seems likely" it will invest part of its money in this way, some fund managers dismiss it as out of hand on the basis that it is too risky and not what the investors want. Other fund managers are still considering the possibilities while some frankly admit that at the moment they have not the expertise but it is certainly a future possibility.

In any event investors should check the policy of the fund managers so that he knows exactly what sort of risk he is taking in international investment.

Sally Michael

HOFF OF HEYBRIDGE HEATH



Grouse

For both motor and household insurances significant increases in premiums are being required by insurers at most renewals. It would appear, however, that some insurers and brokers deliberately hold back the issue of renewal invitations so that, by the time they arrive, there is virtually no time to obtain a quotation from another insurer—especially if a survey of the locks, bolts and other security devices in the house would be necessary before an insurer could quote a firm premium.

The fair course to adopt (and insurers are always stressing the need for the utmost good faith in insurance contracts) would be to make sure that policyholders receive their renewal invitations in time for them to "shop around" before deciding whether to renew.

Insurers whose premiums are competitive would have little to fear: policyholders would discover for themselves that their insurers would cost even more if they were to move elsewhere.

More information, also, could be given in renewal notices, particularly those for household insurances. Many householders now have their policies "index-linked", whereby the sum insured is updated each month in line with a suitable index. Each year the premium is calculated on the updated value.

Clearly, when insurance is on that basis, each annual premium will be higher than the last. A number of insurers have, however, also increased the rate of premium applied.

More information could be given about that, so that a householder could see if the same rate as before had been applied.

Christmas gifts

Money is the ideal last-minute present

Are you still chasing around for last-minute gifts for the children—and, indeed, everyone else? In desperation one can always fall back upon that most useful commodity—money.

In the past I have always used Marks and Spencer clothes as the most original and acceptable of cash vouchers. On the principle that if the recipients do not like my bought-in taste they can always exchange the goods for money at their nearest branch.

This year I am not even giving people the option of cash or clothes: it is cash or nothing. However, one is not entirely restricted to nice, new, crisp notes—acceptable as these always are. Most of the savings institutions can offer variations which might serve well as stocking fillers.

Building societies, which normally face a run on their funds during December, try to redress the balance encouraging members to deposit in Christmas presents, particularly for children. Abbey National's gift cheques can be for as little as £1 and come in an attractive Christmas card folder.

Alternatively, you can set the child off on the savings habit

by opening a Leicester Money Book plan, also for as little as £1. The advantage—or it is drawn out of this plan—is that special arrangements permit children over the age of seven to withdraw up to £25 without parental let or hindrance.

Chelsea Building Society has a "Christmas Gift Accounts for Children" scheme, which also comes gift-wrapped and accompanied by a greetings card. That is for modest gifts. If you wish to invest £100 it goes in the premium share account and Chelsea adds another £1 to get the gift off to a good start.

The Woolwich goes in for gift vouchers, from £1 to £15.00 and vouchers invested within 30 days will have interest credited from the day after the voucher was issued.

Free money boxes are available from Lloyd's Bank and the Midland which also sells an elephant box for 75p. An investment of 50p would secure either a plastic pig or football money box from Williams on Glyps, or you can have a blue globe from National Westminster for 6p. After the add some shiny coins.

Margaret Stone

Credit

It's not the time to be living on tick

Only those with a strong constitution—who are fairly desperate for funds—will not be put off by the sky-high cost of credit nowadays. Borrowing has never been more expensive, with overdrafts and personal loans, the cheapest and most convenient forms of credit, now costing well over 20 per cent.

There could be worse to come. Interest rates may not go up again (although there are still some jeremiahs in the City suggesting they could), but the credit squeeze looks as though it will become tighter after Christmas as the availability of money gets scarcer. And far from being a temporary measure to get the country off a sticky economic patch, as was hoped last month, the indications now are that we will be living with interest rates at roughly these levels at least until after the 1980 budget.

This week's figure from the banking system brought little comfort, either. They were nowhere near as bad as the last year which forced the Government to raise its minimum lending rate from 14 to 17 per cent, but they did all the same show

that we were still a nation of hefty borrowers.

True, the figures took in only a few days of the higher interest rates and companies, strapped for cash, are going to their bankers in droves. But the pace of personal borrowing is much too brisk for the Government's liking.

All this lending would, of course, normally be good news for the banks: not now though, because the level is closely circumscribed by Bank of England controls. For most of the year the big high street banks have had to pay only small fines for overstepping the mark, but they are now worried about moving further into the penalty zone which would cost them a further loss of the unprofitable.

Hence the reminders from bank head offices to branch managers to rein back their lending—requests that tend to hit the personal customer hardest.

You will not then get a very seasonal reception from the bank manager if you want money to buy a car or home improvements, while for more

conspicuous consumption, like a winter holiday, you may not even get as far as sitting down before being shown the door.

Plainly, though, the curbs are not totally draconian and for cases of special hardship, necessary spending or simply delays in funds arriving from other sources, bank managers will still be accommodating.

Overdrafts at present cost between 20 and 22 per cent—that is, if you can get them, because the trend over the last few years has been for the banks to switch much of their private lending into personal loans. At present there appears to be little to choose between the two, with personal loans costing 21.5 per cent for a typical two-year loan, although for at least the next few days Barclays is sticking at 19.5 per cent.

The drawback with personal loans, however, is that the interest rate is fixed for the period of the borrowing and it would not advise anyone to get locked into these high rates, because interest rates must come down some time over the next year. You do all the same get tax relief on personal loans

for home improvement, if which overdrafts do not qualify.

The squeeze on mortgage funds also means that it is no unlikely that you will get a to up from your building society for home improvements and th leaves credit cards or hire purchase as the chief alternative sources, bank managers will still be accommodating.

Both Access and Barclays are to raise their rates to maximum of almost 31 per cent (assuming no use is made of the interest-free period) ear in the new year. If that do not scare you off, then o point to bear in mind if y decide to use their facilities that changes in repayment schedules could well be introduced if a mini-budget becomes necessary in the next few months.

It may be heresy to say so a consumer society, but this not the time to be living i tick, especially as consum durables are unlikely to go by the 20 per cent or so o the next year which wo justify buying them on cre today.

Ronald Pulte

The stock market began its traditional run-up to Christmas this week as both gilts and equities were helped along the way by bullish investors.

After a technical dip at the end of the last account some genuine buying got the week off to a good start and jobbers, with little stock on their books, had no alternative but to get out their blue pencils and mark stocks higher.

Helped along by a rising bullion price which peaked at \$461 on Thursday gold shares moved sharply forward.

Stocks with Rhodesian interests, including Falcon Mines and Zambia Copper also leapt ahead on the back of the settlement.

A report that more diamonds had been found at the Ashbur Prospect in Australia put some sparkle into Ashton Mining, RTZ, and Tanganyika Concessions, while the London-based

Investor's week

Market begins its run-up to Christmas

Perings Mining is continuing the rise which has almost quadrupled its share price from a July base of around 20p.

Properties, a weak market of late, is now seen by some as a hedge against interest rates dropping early next year and several companies in this sector have gone ahead.

After the Daventry Day take-over some of the smaller merchant banks, including Brown Shipley, Kaye, Utimex and Gresham Trust, have felt the wind of bid speculation gusting them upwards.

As the December 17 Opac meeting draws nearer oil shares have attracted much interest. Market estimates of the new price per barrel range from \$25-\$27 and several of the oil groups, including BP, Shell and Ultramar, have accordingly seen some buying. Siebens Oil surged ahead on a share tip.

Better than expected results from ICL put a spark into the electrical sector where Royal and Allied Electricities rallied, after disappointments with its figures in the previous account. Buyers, identifying the quality growth stocks in the sector, boosted Farnell, Electromechanics and Diplomat.

A few buyers and no sellers gave Pions a helping hand while some selective demand nudged Blue Circle higher.

Fears that Christmas buying may not be all it looks left the stores sector languishing in the doldrums and a strong market in British, American and French Mothercare proved to be an exception to the general trend.

After getting off to a dull start gilts ended the week on a brighter note undeterred by the banking, money supply and trade figures.

Overall the FT index gained 10.3 on the week to close at 431.

Alison Mitchell

Motor insurance

To claim or not to claim...

So you have never had an accident... Beware, on average, motorists make a claim every five or six years.

Your unlucky number comes this winter, do you know what to do on the spot, and what to do about your no-claim discount later.

First, don't trust the promises of the motorist who says he will pay for the repair to your car, rather than involve your own insurers. Although you will be shaken, get his name and address and that of some witnesses. And try to make a fairly accurate sketch map, on the spot; memories can become blurred.

If you make a claim on your policy, you will lose all or part of your no-claim discount at the next and subsequent renewals?

If you can prove the accident was caused solely by the other motorist's negligence, your insurers may allow you to retain your no-claim discount in full. The best proof is to have successfully claimed the full uninsured excess, usually £25, from the other motorist.

Some insurers provide "protected" discounts—either because you also have a household policy, or pay an extra premium each year. With that in mind, your policy may be able to claim without loss of discount (unless you make a further claim).

Even if your discount is at stake, as with any other damage to the car, you should take the insurers' straight way. But you can always add that you may not necessarily make a claim—to preserve your discount.

There are, therefore, three choices: to claim and lose discount at the next and subsequent renewals; to meet the repair cost from your own pocket; not to have the damage repaired.

Before making a decision, it is worth trying to work out how much no-claim discount you would forfeit by making a claim. Here, presumably you will assume that you do not expect to be involved in another accident where you might be obliged to claim, for instance, if you should be "written off" or there should be a heavy claim made against you for personal injury or damage to property.

All you need on 50 per cent no-claim discount, one claim could put you back to 25 or 30 per cent at renewal, instead of going up to, perhaps 60 per cent if you made no claim. Making a claim, therefore, may cost 30 per cent of next year's premium.

The following year you might creep up to 40 per cent instead of staying on 60 per cent—the claim would cost you a further 20 per cent then. And you might suffer a further loss of 10 per cent a year later.

As premiums are increasing all the time, the overall cost of making a claim can be high—although much depends on your present rate of discount, because there is a discount used by your insurers, and, of course, whether you get involved in

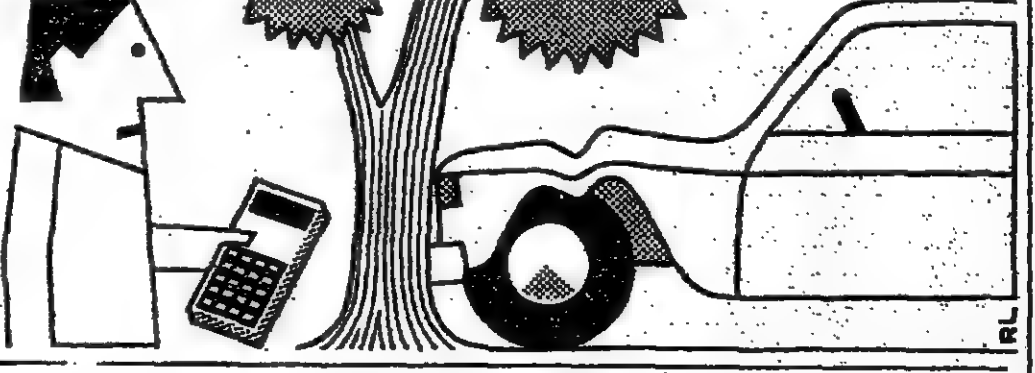
another accident where you have to claim.

If there is not much difference between today's cost and your estimate of the loss of no-claim discount in the future, it may be best to claim because there is the chance that you may need to claim again in the future.

If the potential loss of discount is much higher than the claim you would receive (after you have deducted your excess from the cost of the repair), you may choose not to claim.

Even if the damage to your car is slight or superficial, probably it is best to have it repaired; otherwise, the condition of the car can deteriorate, which would affect its resale or trade-in value when you decide to part with it.

John Drummond



Round-up

Fidelity joins unit trust market

Fidelity International Management, the subsidiary of Fidelity Group of Boston, one of the world's largest investment fund organizations, entered the British unit trust market this week with a batch of four funds—the Fidelity Fixed Interest, Growth and Income Trust, Special Situations and American Trusts.

An important feature of the new trusts is that switches between them will be encouraged, not frowned upon. As the trusts are unlikely to rise or fall in value, they will be able to part of its unit holders (subject to a minimum of £50 to another Fidelity fund with an initial charge of only 2 p. cent instead of the normal 5 per cent).

The minimum investment each fund is £500, and although the annual charges are a standard fixed unit trust rate of 3 per cent, the managers have given notice that they intend to raise the fees to 4 per cent on Growth and Income, a Special Situations Trust, and 1 per cent on American.

Increases will be proposed in the Fixed Interest Trust, which will be 2 p. cent, and in the American Trust, which will be 1 p. cent.

Two new unit trusts are waiting in the wings for 1980. H Samuel has a Far Eastern Fund ready for unitholders, while Chiffrin is planning to launch a Small Companies Fund in January.

Both management groups hope that the vexed question of fees will be resolved by the new year.

All self-employed people should, by now, be well versed in the merits of 226A policies—term assurance written under the provisions of Section 226A of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act, 1970. Self-employed policyholders obtain full relief on their premiums (their highest rate of tax, i.e. the 17½ per cent relief for normally given with 1 policy).

The concept is basically extension of self-employment retirement annuities which allow full tax relief on premiums, but you do not have to use the same office for both contracts. Among the commonest reasons for this is that the pension-paying offices. Econom

Insurance claims to be quoted the lowest premium rates for men retiring at age 60 or 65. Equitable Life Assurance, non-commission paying office, has also just introduced further variation on the 22 rate. It now offers increasing income for dependants policy, where the benefits rise by as much as 10 p. per year of the initial annuity payment.

DUPEL

Coach and bus bodywork, hot compression mouldings, textile machinery and precision engineering.

	Year to 31st August 1979	1978
Turnover	22,204	20,218
Profit before tax	3,704	3,081
Retained profit	1,852	1,356
Dividends per share (actual)	1.447p	0.863p
Earnings per share	6.05p	3.96p

* Record levels of turnover and profit.
 * Coachbuilding Division continues as major contributor to the group's prosperity.
 * Plastics Division has consolidated position and additional premises should provide base for further progress.
 * Company enters new financial year with confidence in its products and a further increase in profits is expected.
 * The Board is exploring alternative ways of expansion.

Dupel International Limited
 Vicarage Lane, Blackpool, Lancs. FY4 4EN.

Unit trust performance

GENERAL																										
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Britannia Special Sits	130.2	216.8	105.5	198.3	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6
Brclys/Ucnrn Pnt Sits	119.1	216.9	105.5	198.3	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6
N New Court Smr Cnls	118.6	233.6	105.5	198.3	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6
S & P Scontaires	116.9	217.7	105.5	198.3	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6
Hambleton Smr Cnls	116.1	201.6	105.5	198.3	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6
Key Small Cos Fnd	115.9	283.4	105.5	198.3	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6
Confdm Growth Cnls	115.4	256.1	105.5	198.3	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6
Mexury General	114.8	226.9	105.5	198.3	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6
Brclys/Ucnrn Qdnt	114.6	216.9	105.5	198.3	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6
MLA Trust	113.6	267.1	105.5	198.3	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6
A-Hmbz Znd Smr Cnls	113.3	276.9	105.5	198.3	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6
Brclys/Ucnrn Pnt Sits	113.1	216.9	105.5	198.3	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6
Legal & Gen-Yntd	111.1	267.1	105.5	198.3	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6
Klwnr Enst Enl Fnd	110.1	199.9	105.5	198.3	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6
College Hill	110.8	184.1	105.5	198.3	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6
Widmndr Fund	107.2	167.2	105.5	198.3	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6
Nl/Nelstar	110.4	164.1	105.5	198.3	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6
Pelican Units	109.5	220.7	105.5	198.3	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6
Oceanic/General	109.5	154.6	105.5	198.3	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6
Archway Fund	109.3	181.7	105.5	198.3	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6
Trades Union Units	109.1	154.6	105.5	198.3	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6
Britannia Shield	109.0	172.8	105.5	198.3	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6
Britannia Status Chn	108.9	236.8	105.5	198.3	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6
Friars House	108.9	206.6	105.5	198.3	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6
Brclys/Ucnrn Qdnt	108.0	216.9	105.5	198.3	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6
Guardhill	108.6	191.1	105.5	198.3	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6
M&C/General	107.8	179.1	105.5	198.3	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6
Schlesinger Mkt Adr	107.7	180.1	105.5	198.3	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6
Allied/GrtH & Lnc	107.5	157.9	105.5	198.3	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6
Brclys/Ucnrn Qdnt	107.3	216.9	105.5	198.3	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6
Brclys/Ucnrn Qdnt	107.2	216.9	105.5	198.3	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6
Allied/First	106.8	154.6	105.5	198.3	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6
Kelowne Bntr Smr Cnls	106.6	236.6	105.5	198.3	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6
Brclys/Ucnrn Qdnt	106.5	216.9	105.5	198.3	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6
S&P/LUKS Equity	106.3	180.6	105.5	198.3	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6
LYONS Life Equity	105.9	193.7	105.5	198.3	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6
Hendersn/InstAssets	105.6	206.5	105.5	198.3	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6	154.6					

EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

FINANCIAL NEWS

B Fertleman: return to profit is nearer

By Our Financial Staff

South London furniture makers B. Fertleman & Sons appears to have stemmed the tide of losses during the first six months to September 30, 1979. Even so, the first-half loss is £209,000 against £145,000 in the same period last year. But this is considerably better than the preceding six months when the company reported losses of £525,000.

The Camberwell company managed a small gain in turnover during the period under review, ahead by £20,000 but it was not enough to get it back into the black.

Since the company made losses in 1978 of more than £500,000 the board has taken steps to remedy the situation. The Chairman, Mr John Swanborough, says that during the first six months of the current year the group has improved performance in lines with the corporate plan.

Changes have taken place within the group, some of which have resulted in non-recurring costs. These, together with a more critical approach to certain of Fertleman's accounting policies, have resulted in exceptional charges totalling £29,523.

He says the underlying performance of the group is encouraging and most of the primary objectives are being achieved.



Mr John Swanborough, chairman of B. Fertleman.

Mr Swanborough strikes an optimistic note for the current half by saying that the group made a profit in September and October and the board expects to show a surplus by the end of the present six months. Fertleman's new range of furniture, introduced during the summer, has been well received, says the chairman, and the order books are strong. But he concludes it would be imprudent to forecast the year-end results.

Cawdaw falls 66 pc

By Our Financial Staff

Increased interest rates were a major factor in reducing Cawdaw Industrial Holdings' profits by £100,000 at the half. Sales rose by 12 per cent to £7m but pretax profits fell 66 per cent from £152,000 to £52,000 after interest charges of £154,000 in the six months to September 30, 1979. Interest payments amounted to £108,000 at the same time last year.

The group has decided to close three of its eight dye houses, making 220 people redundant, to reduce the high proportion of its capital employed in yarn dyeing. The move should lead to an improvement in profit potential and will release funds for investment in the group's timber and kitchen furniture operation, said the board.

Cawdaw plans to acquire

three retail outlets in the home improvement and kitchen extension market and negotiations are near completion. This will help to reduce the group's dependence on its textile activities which have been hit by pressure on margins from cheap imports, as well as interest increases.

Both the kitchen furniture manufacturing and timber import operations met the forecast sales and profit figures and progress in establishing the bedroom furniture manufacturing operation has been satisfactory, said Mr G. H. Lowe, chairman.

But, although the current level of profitability is improving, recovery to acceptable profit levels cannot be achieved quickly, he stressed. In common with previous years there is no interim dividend payment.

Slip at G M Firth

By Rosemary Unsworth

Profits and sales showed a drop in the first half at G. M. Firth (Metals), the Bradford steel stockholders. Pretax profits slipped from £94,000 to £88,000 and turnover fell by 22 per cent to £3.1m in the six months to September 30, 1979. Trading profit was almost halved to £106,000 during the period.

Chairman, Mr Gerrard Leadbeater, said that although there was no promise of growth in the present economic climate, the group was now able to concentrate "single mindedness" on furthering business following the outcome of the court case against the company. "The board much regrets that the

matter has for so long overshadowed the solid progress the company has made in recent years to strengthen its assets and liquidity."

Mr Leadbeater was fined £5,000 and given a one year suspended prison sentence on charges of conspiracy to defraud and issue forged documents in October. The charges involved a conspiracy to sell foreign steel as British steel and related to a subsidiary, G. M. Firth (Steelstock).

The interim dividend has been maintained at 2.14p gross and second half profits are likely to be the same as the first, compared with last year's full year results of £185,000 pretax.

Greene, King up 10 pc

The interim dividend has been increased from 5.145p gross to 5.71p. An AGM will be held in February to approve a one-for-one scrip issue and to adopt a profit sharing scheme for employees.

The group is planning to spend £2m on its pubs during the current year.

Another independent brewer, Hardys and Hanson of Nottingham which is a close company, increased pretax profits by 21 per cent to £2.25m on a 9 per cent rise in turnover to £11.2m for the year ending September 23, 1979.

A final dividend of 9.7p gross has been proposed, making a total of 13.4p compared with last year's 11.6p gross.

Le Nickel optimistic

Le Havre, France, Dec 14.

STE Metallurgique le Nickel expects to show a loss of around 130m francs this year, with the second half roughly in balance after a first-half loss of 125.7m francs.

A final dividend of 9.7p gross has been proposed, making a total of 13.4p compared with last year's 11.6p gross.

Questioned by journalists visiting the company's high purity nickel cathode plant at Sandouville near Le Havre, Rembaud said net turnover in 1979 should be between 1,600m and 1,700m francs.

In 1978 Le Nickel had a loss of 593.3m francs on turnover of 865m.

M. Rembaud said Le Nickel's sales in 1979 have been far below nickel prices, which began the year at low levels, rose to become remunerative in the second half.

The company's sales of all types of nickel products should be around 65,000 tonnes this year compared with 45,600 in 1978, he said.

The sales increase has permitted Le Nickel to sell substantial amounts from stocks but at the end of the year it still has about 10,000 tonnes more than the desired level of three to four months supply, M. Rembaud said.

Marine Midland

Hongkong—The request to the United States Federal Reserve Board by Representative Mr Benjamin Rosenthal to withdraw approval for the takeover of Marine Midland Banks by Hongkong and Shanghai

International

Banking Corp is not likely to significantly delay the Federal authorities' decision on the merger plans banking sources said here. Mr Rosenthal also asked the United States Comptroller of the Currency to delay any action on the National City Bank application of Marine Midland until the Federal Reserve acts—Reuter.

News reconstruction

Adelaide—News Ltd, the company controlled by Mr Rupert Murdoch, said the Supreme Court of South Australia has approved the scheme of arrangement for reconstruction of the company's capital.

The group will now be the News Corp Ltd, and shareholders will receive two ordinary 550-cent shares in the new company for each 50 cent News Ltd ordinary share. Preference shareholders are unaffected—Reuter.

Ashton Mining

Melbourne—Ashton joint venture partner, Ashton Mining NL, has raised 5A7.0m through an institutional placement of 3.5m fully paid 50-cent shares at 52.00 each. The cash raised will fund extra expenditure on the venture's Argyle prospect and meet all exploration and evaluation commitments for the next three to four years—Reuter.

GUINNESS

Preliminary Announcement of Profits and Dividend

52 weeks ended 29th September, 1979 and Issue of Ordinary Stock by Capitalisation of Reserves

	Notes	1979 £m	1978 £m
TURNOVER	1	687.2	642.7
PROFITS			
TRADING PROFIT	2		
Brewing		39.6	31.0
General Trading	3	7.9	8.4
Plastics and Materials Handling		5.3	4.6
Leisure		1.3	0.7
Confectionery		0.7	0.4
Central Management costs		54.8	45.1
Interest charges		1.9	1.4
Investment Income		52.9	43.7
Share of profits of associated companies		11.1	7.3
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION		41.8	36.4
Taxation	4	0.8	0.9
PROFIT AFTER TAXATION		10.3	7.6
Minority interests		52.9	44.9
Extraordinary items	5	18.4	15.4
PROFIT ATTRIBUTABLE TO STOCKHOLDERS		34.5	29.5
DIVIDENDS		4.7	4.0
RETAINED PROFIT OF THE GROUP		29.8	25.5
EARNINGS PER 25p STOCK UNIT		CR1.9	2.3
PROPOSED FINAL DIVIDEND PER 25p STOCK UNIT	6	31.7	23.2
Proposed payment on 11th February, 1980		6.65p	5.2195p
Gross equivalent		9.50p	7.7903p
PROPOSED FINAL DIVIDEND PER 25p STOCK UNIT	7		
Proposed payment on 11th February, 1980		6.65p	5.2195p
Gross equivalent		9.50p	7.7903p

At the Annual General Meeting the necessary Resolutions will be proposed to make an issue by way of Capitalisation of Reserves of one new share of 25p (to be converted on issue into an Ordinary Stock Unit of 25p) for each Ordinary Stock Unit of 25p registered in the stockholders' names at the close of business on 28th December, 1979.

NOTES

1. The following table analyses turnover by sales to customers located in each territory—

	1979 £m	%	1978 £m	%
United Kingdom	339.4	49	321.3	50
Republic of Ireland	193.4	28	171.4	27
Overseas	354.4	52	150.0	23
	687.2	100	642.7	100

2. (a) The following table shows the trading profit of subsidiary companies resident in each territory before deducting Central Management costs. The figures for the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland include profits on exports from these territories and therefore should not be related to the turnover figures in Note 1.

	1979 £m	%	1978 £m	%
United Kingdom	29.8	36	15.7	35
Republic of Ireland	11.9	42	17.4	39
Overseas	11.1	23	12.0	26
	52.9	100	45.1	100

(b) Trading profit is after charging depreciation of £15.5m (£13.5m).

(c) In 1978 trading profits included profits arising from a 53rd week of trading, the major effect of which was an increase of 20.6m in brewing profit.

(d) The 1979 trading profit of companies resident in the Republic of Ireland and Overseas would have been £2.1m greater if it had been translated at the exchange rates used in converting last year's profit.

(e) In 1978 the General Trading companies operating in the United Kingdom altered their year ends principally from 31st March to 31st August. The effect of this change was estimated to have increased last year's trading profit of the General Trading division by approximately £0.7m.

(f) The acquisition of new subsidiaries, principally in the General Trading division, is estimated to have increased the trading profit by £0.5m (£1.0m).

(g) The attributable proportion of profits is included in respect of Harp Lager Ltd., Cantrell & Cochrane Group Ltd., Guinness (Nigeria) Ltd., Guinness Ghana Ltd. and other principal associated companies in the Brewing and General Trading divisions.

(h) The following table analyses the taxation charge—

	1979 £m	%	1978 £m	%
Holding and subsidiary companies				
Taxation arising in—				
United Kingdom	3.2	3.5	3.5	3.5
Republic of Ireland	6.4	3.9	3.9	3.9
Overseas	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1
Associated companies—share of taxation				
	14.7	12.5	14.0	12.0
	3.7	2.9	3.0	2.0
	18.4	15.4	17.0	14.0

(i) U.K. Corporation Tax has been provided at the rate of 52% (52%).

(j) The taxation charge has been reduced by £2.9m (£3.9m) as a result of not providing in full for deferred taxation. However, advance corporation tax not immediately recoverable of £2.5m (£3.5m) has been written off.

(k) Extraordinary items include a credit of £2.4m arising from the reconstruction of Harp Lager Ltd.

(l) Proposed Final Dividend. The proposed final dividend together with the interim dividend already paid makes the gross equivalent of the total dividends for the year 14.00p (11.694p). This represents an increase of 19.7%, compared with last year.

Inflation Accounting

The published accounts will include a Current Cost Statement of Profit which will show that the effect of applying the Interim Recommendation published by the Accounting Standards Committee in November, 1977 is to reduce this year's group profit before taxation by £16.5m (31%). This reduction arises from the deduction of £23.2m representing additional depreciation of £14.6m and the cost of sales adjustment of £8.6m and the addition of a gearing adjustment of £6.7m.

Summarised Group Balance Sheet at 29th September, 1979

	1979 £m	1978 £m
SOURCES OF CAPITAL		
Ordinary stockholders' equity	203.4	177.9
Outside shareholders' interests and pension provisions	15.9	16.4
Loans	78.6	58.6
	297.9	252.9
EMPLOYMENT OF CAPITAL		
Fixed Assets	183.7	165.9
Goodwill	20.0	16.4
Investments	31.5	34.3
Net Current Assets excluding liquid funds	67.2	54.8
Cash and Deposits	41.0	23.1
	343.4	294.5
Less bank overdrafts and short term loans	45.5	41.6
	297.9	252.9

Extracts from the Chairman's Statement

GENERAL
Profit before tax was 18% better than last year. Trading profits in brewing have improved substantially, particularly in the Irish companies.

BREWING
Sales of Guinness Stout in all the home markets increased last year. Overall sales of our beer brands worldwide were at record levels.

GENERAL TRADING
There has been continued growth in most businesses, but the profits of both the Retail Division and Overseas Trading fell as a result of difficult trading conditions.

PLASTICS AND MATERIALS HANDLING
Improved profits were recorded overall, in spite of the very sharp rise in prices of plastic raw materials.

LEISURE
Our holiday centres and cruiser hire operations continued to develop satisfactorily.

CONFECTIONERY
Volume and profits have improved on last year, but this progress was checked by the VAT increase in June.

FINANCIAL
The interest charge increased by £3.8m. This was attributable equally to higher interest rates and greater borrowings.

ARTHUR GUINNESS SON AND COMPANY LIMITED

leading or a 25% increase

In one month's figures yet come, house prices look set to rise 25 per cent in 1979, according to the predictions of pundits who believed that the leap of 22 per cent was feasible.

However, sticking my neck out this time, it really does not seem unlikely that house prices in 1980 will show such a static increase.

The outlook could hardly be worse. Mortgage funds, both expensive and scarce, are likely to remain so until next year. Although there are those who wish to see a fall in interest rates, more likely it will not be until the budget that the break first appears.

Whether mortgage interest rates will be down speedily then is her matter. The Building Societies Association is again talking about a interest rate structure which would enable societies to let the mortgage rate stable, letting investment rates to move more rapidly.

It is a good idea but can only be achieved by widening the gap between the mortgage and interest rates. I suspect that societies will find it politically and socially unacceptable to reduce the investment next year without altering mortgage rate too.

Growers whose mortgages five years old or more may be paying 11 per cent of net income to the mortgage even after the rise in the base interest rate to 15 per cent at the beginning of month, but the immediate discussions on the family set will be unpleasant.

It is actual cost of a mortgage rise by around 24 per cent annually, and for the time the increase will be even because of the island's inability to cope with necessary adjustments to ridal tax codes. This is that until the Revenue's finger out—which, we been warned, will not be next April—most people

wife's investment income

Former husband's debt

though my husband and I taxed separately my wife's income is deemed to be the income of my husband. This means that he pays a cent investment income charge as well as being at the higher rates of tax. As my husband is unemployed I am the taxpayer and I feel the income should be taxed to him. The tax tells me this is not possible. This strikes me as an exceptionally unequal opportunity. Could the tax office be reformed? (G. H. Munter).

the tax laws stand as they are, a woman is regarded as the owner of the income and is deemed to be the owner. The only exception is that earnings (not investment income) of the wife are taxed separately if both husband and wife go elect the wife's earnings alone. Provided the combined income is sufficiently high a wife will be a tax saving under election—otherwise there is no point in making a claim and there will be a tax loss.

A general guide to the election of gross income for the tax year needs to be £15,000 for a claim to be considered.

far as the investment income is concerned the husband's claim only on exemption (in excess of £5,000 of gross income) even though both he and his wife may each receive substantial amounts.

number of politicians and others are urging equal opportunity under the tax laws and may well see a change for better in the not too distant future.

years ago when my marriage was dissolved, a court order was made providing my husband should pay me a lump sum of £4,000. He has nothing. Our former home occupied by him and is used by him and his brother-in-law in common under a tenancy for sale. My former husband has no assets or resources. Can I get the lump sum ordered? (N. J. J. J.).

because of the court order, my former husband is a judgment debtor. It would be pointless to take out a judgment against him to compel him to pay the lump sum, as he has no assets or resources. Can I get the lump sum ordered? (N. J. J. J.).

long-winded way of enforcing a sale would be to apply to the court for an order of specific execution over the former husband's interest in the property. The receiver may also be on power by the court to

The Times/Halifax house price index

Monthly Index of average prices of second-hand houses (Seasonally adjusted)

	Index	Average price (£)	% change over the preceding 1 year	% change over the preceding 6 months	% change over the preceding 3 months
1977 December	100.0	14,757			
1978 March	105.8	15,579	15.5	8.8	5.6
June	109.3	16,133	16.9	9.3	3.6
September	117.2	17,450	23.0	12.0	8.2
October	117.4	17,328	23.2	12.5	4.0
November	119.9	17,891	21.9	14.8	3.1
December	121.1	17,886	21.1	10.7	2.4
1979 January	122.9	18,132	20.8	8.8	4.7
February	127.3	18,783	24.8	10.5	6.2
March	130.5	19,259	28.6	10.4	7.8
April	131.7	19,441	27.3	12.2	7.2
May	136.2	20,084	30.4	13.8	7.0
June	138.4	20,341	28.1	19.5	5.6
July	142.6	21,038	26.2	18.0	8.2
August	145.2	21,427	28.0	14.1	6.6
September	145.5	21,480	27.1	11.5	5.8
October	149.5	22,065	27.4	13.5	4.9
November	151.4	22,339	28.3	11.2	4.3

Average regional prices of second-hand houses

	November £	Previous month £	% change over 3 months
North	16,667	16,903	-2.0
York and Humberside	15,519	14,950	7.5
North-west	16,385	17,967	4.1
East Midlands	17,234	17,386	-0.7
West Midlands	19,501	19,133	1.3
East Anglia	20,711	20,393	4.0
Wales	17,728	17,344	2.3
South-west	23,539	23,529	3.8
South-east	28,441	28,141	4.7
Greater London	30,428	30,206	6.0
Northern Ireland	21,585	22,211	-2.3
Scotland	20,476	20,360	2.7

will face an increase of 45 per cent in their mortgage outgoings.

These factors are likely to act as a deterrent to those who would normally be seeking to trade up next year. The recent upsurge in both house prices and incomes has meant that more couples are turning over their houses earlier and younger.

Some 60 per cent of owner-occupied trading are under 35 years of age and the life of a typical mortgage is now down to about 54 years. However, if prices do decelerate, vendors are more likely to take their houses off the market for several months, if not longer.

MS

Slip at G M Firth

By Rosemary Unsworth

Profits and sales showed a drop in the first half at G. M. Firth (Metals), the Bradford steel stockholders. Pretax profits slipped from £94,000 to £88,000 and turnover fell by 22 per cent to £3.1m in the six months to September 30, 1979. Trading profit was almost halved to £106,000 during the period.

Chairman, Mr Gerrard Leadbeater, said that although there was no promise of growth in the present economic climate, the group was now able to concentrate "single mindedness" on furthering business following the outcome of the court case against the company. "The board much regrets that the

matter has for so long overshadowed the solid progress the company has made in recent years to strengthen its assets and liquidity."

Mr Leadbeater was fined £5,000 and given a one year suspended prison sentence on charges of conspiracy to defraud and issue forged documents in October. The charges involved a conspiracy to sell foreign steel as British steel and related to a subsidiary, G. M. Firth (Steelstock).

The interim dividend has been maintained at 2.14p gross and second half profits are likely to be the same as the first, compared with last year's full year results of £185,000 pretax.

A final dividend of 9.7p gross has been proposed, making a total of 13.4p compared with last year's

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Gilts surge ahead and equities try to follow

The stock market finished the first leg of the long three-week account on a firm note yesterday achieved mainly on the back of another strong performance by Government securities.

Once again dealers reported a slow start to the morning's proceedings which meant many of the leaders were marked lower. This resulted in a few buyers

14 per cent 1998-01 loan tap for the first time at 150.1. This in turn provided for firmer conditions among equities after hours where dealers experienced some pockets of selective buying. A point borne out by the FT Index which after being 6.4 up at 3 pm went on to close 9.5 up at 431.0; a rise on the week of 10.3 (2.4 per cent).

Fisons featured prominently among leading industrials where the presence of two buyers among the institutions pushed up the price 17p to 254p in a thin market. Glaxo was also 7p stronger at 443p while Glaxo 4p were noted in ICI at 373p. Unilever at 458p and Beecham at 122p. Dunlop improved 1p to 34p and Pilkington firmed 1p to 207p and the new by the same amount to 9p premium.

The building sector was a firm spot mainly carried along with the remainder of the market. Taylor Woodrow was 5p higher at 339p and Blue Circle Industries improved 10p to 242p. Tunnel Holdings 'B' was 5p better at 304p while Rugby Portland was a penny firmer at 59p. After a dull start, stores, another sector to switch around and follow the lead of gilts, showed good gains with most shares closing at the top. Mothercare was made the most noted performance rising 10p to 192p but GUS 'A' shed 1p to 354p.

Others to make headway included B & Q (Retail) 9p up at

91p, Boots 3p better at 165p and Marks & Spencer a penny firmer at 82p. Shares of Burnett & Hallamshire 15p up at 450p and A&A 2p better at 115p were wanted mainly on their coal mining activities. Speculative activity surrounded Friedland Daggart 3p better at 102p, APV 13p higher at 188p and BTR 12p stronger at 288p. The latest fare concessions offered by European Ferries to its cross channel passengers were good enough for a 4p hike at 98p while favourable press comment left TetraPac 4p better at 134p. Unigate (figures due next week) 2p higher at 114p and Stonehill 3p to the good at 118p.

Rises of 6p were reported by Farnell Electric at 246p and Electromechanics at 446p. Oils were fairly inactive with only Shell 2p higher at 346p. Ultramar 10p up at 426p showing any improvement among the majors. Second line issues saw Siebens 8p better at 408p on scrip issue hopes while Atteck with figures out on Monday rose 4p to 162p.

Properties maintained their recent recovery with MFC 5p up at 159p ahead of next week's figure. Haselmer was another bright spot 12p to the good at 274p and Hammons 'A' in ex rights form dipped 5p to 695p, while Land Securities increased 10p to 274p. Mines suffered a bout of profit taking

following this week's sparkling performance although the Gold Mines index rose 3.1 to 266.4. Elsewhere in mines, Zambian Copper Investments improved 5p to 23p. Consolidated Gold Fields edged ahead a further 2p to 377p.

Insurances were mostly unchanged while the major clearing banks showed rises of between 3p and 5p.

Equity turnover on December 13, was £83.67m (11,947 bargains). Active stocks yesterday according to the Exchange Telegraph, were, Royal Dutch, GEC, Distillers, Ultramar, ICI, GUS 'A', Unigate, Marks & Spencer, Bowater, K.T.Z., Consolidated Gold Fields and Land Securities.

Latest results

Company	Notes	Profits	Div	Pay	Year's
Int or Fin					
John Booth (I)	3.84(3.98)	0.05(0.12)	—	—	—
Cawdow Ind (I)	7.0(6.2)	0.05(0.15)	—	—	—
Cleaving (F)	2.64(2.87)	0.44(0.37)	1.65(0.68)	—	3.3(1.43)
B. Fentiman (I)	1.59(1.37)	0.24(0.14)	—	—	—
G. M. Firth (I)	0.89(0.91)	1.3(1.5)	1.5(1.5)	—	—
Greene, King (I)	24.6(21.3)	2.49(2.26)	4.0(3.44)	8/2	—
Grosvell Mines (F)	—	—	56(22)	22/2	92(38)
A. Guinness (F)	607(642.7)	33(45)	6.63(5.2)	41/2	—
Rivington Reed (I)	12.48(10.8)	1.2(0.98)	8.5(7.5)	21/2	—
Initial Ser (I)	60.29(52.63)	7.26(6.24)	8.7(8.5)	21/2	—
Marleval Mines (F)	—	—	0.11(0.28)	2/2	—
Regalian Props (I)	0.22(0.33)	0.22(0.33)	2.32(6.4)	—	—
Rivington Reed (I)	12.48(10.8)	1.2(0.98)	8.5(7.5)	21/2	—
John Swan (I)	0.36(0.39)	0.08(0.16)	6.5(12.0)	—	—
Tex Abrasives (I)	2.82(2.63)	0.16(0.17)	0.75(0.75)	7/2	—
Wheelock, M (I) b	—	—	51(142)	15/2	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on a penny per share. Elements in British currency are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a=Loss; b=Figures in Hongkong currency; c=South African cents.

Arthur Guinness reaches £53m

By Alison Mitchell
Stagant half-time profits took the froth off full-year figures at brewing group Arthur Guinness.

In the year to September 29, Guinness made profits of £53m against £45m on sales up from £642m to £687m.

Most of the improvement came on the brewing side, which accounts for around 75 per cent of sales. However the timing of the price rises is crucial to profit increases. So the maintained growth of the second half ought to be followed by a surge early in the current period. Since the Guinness brewery has increased in September and, as such, made no contribution to the second six months of the period under review.

Sales are increasing in Europe and Africa and the downturn in the United Kingdom of the past



Lord Iveagh, chairman of Arthur Guinness.

year or so appears to have bottomed out. The contribution from associate Harp Lager—the last

before the break-up of the consortium—amounted to £2m and the directors are expecting an increase on this figure in the current period. Guinness now has two partners, Greene King and Wolverhampton & Dudley. After a dull start, stores, another sector to switch around and follow the lead of gilts, showed good gains with most shares closing at the top. Mothercare was made the most noted performance rising 10p to 192p but GUS 'A' shed 1p to 354p.

Guinness has also benefited from £2.4m credit from the reconstruction of Harp.

Elsewhere plastics, leisure and confectionery have improved on last year's performance but general trading has slipped from a trading profit of £8.4m to £7.9m.

Bank overdrafts and short-term loans rose by 10 per cent to £45.5m in the period.

For shareholders there is a one-for-one scrip issue and a stepped-up final dividend of 9.5p against 7.75p taking the total for the year to 12.6p.

Regalian slumps 60 pc

By Baron Phillips

Regalian Properties continued its downward trend with a further fall in both turnover and pre-tax profits for the six months to September 30 1979.

At the half-way stage turnover was down 32 per cent to £228,000 from £337,000 in the same period last year, while pre-tax profits fell a staggering 60 per cent to £112,000 against £284,000.

In his interim statement chairman Mr David Goldstone says the decrease in both turnover and profit is inevitable following the substantial reduction in Regalian's available stock of properties.

Regalian derives most of its income through its management and disposal of its charged subsidiaries' properties which are mainly residential. Its subsidiaries currently own about 800 flats throughout the West End of London, nearly all of which are rented.

In recent years it has followed a policy of disposing of flats as they become vacant. This programme has been highly successful over the past two years and as a result income has declined rapidly.

During the last financial year the company acquired, through its subsidiary Regalian Developments, a mixed commercial and residential block in Belgrave. Since the acquisition the company has been refurbishing the block in an attempt to boost sales from the property. The company has also been disposing of flats as they become empty.

During the period under review Regalian sold its interests in five jointly owned companies to FNFC subsidiary First National Developments, a joint venture with Regalian. The sale realised £252,408 which was used to reduce the outstanding debt between the FNFC and Regalian's charge subsidiaries. It will not give any rise to an increase in shareholders funds.

Rivington Reed falls to £500,000 interim loss

A £700,000 turnaround into the red is reported by textiles group Rivington Reed (formerly William Reed and Sons), but the long-term outlook is bright.

In spite of turnover expanding from £10.8m to £12.48m in the half-year to September 29, a pre-tax loss of £156,000 was suffered compared with a £207,000 profit last time. There are no ordinary or preference dividends. For 1978-79, Rivington paid an interim of 2.7p, followed by a final of 3.72p gross.

The board reports that the closure of the Bolton carpet plant has been completed and the substantial freehold premises are being let to a major public company. The investment property will then be sold. This closure of the Bolton plant has reduced the company's involvement in carpets by 80 per cent. Net cash proceeds from the closure will be about £2m. Further savings and reorganization will take place in the second half to ensure that the group consists

only of companies capable of providing an acceptable return.

United Gas pays more at half-way

On turnover up from £22.25m to £23.34m, pre-tax profits of United Gas Industries edged forward from £1,010m to £1,161m in the half-year to September 30. Lifting the half-time dividend from 1.65p to 2p gross, the board reports that, the second half has started reasonably well, but after-effects of the engineering dispute are still being felt.

Braithwaite turning the corner

After the steep declines in profits over the past two years, it looks as though Braithwaite & Co Engineers is fighting back. In spite of a 19 per cent contraction in turnover to £4.07m in the half-year to September 30, pre-tax profits jumped by 60 per cent to £542,000. This is more than the profit of £527,000 made for the whole of 1978-79.

Moreover, the board expects

the results for the second half should be about the same as the first, which would mean about £1.08m, compared with 1977-78's £1.01m and the record of £1.92m for 1976-77.

Howden (Bermuda) in £4m sale

Alexander Howden (Bermuda) is selling 51 per cent of the capital of Banque du Rhone et de la Tamise to a syndicate of investors headed by two of the founders of the banque—Mr Mario Benbasat and Mr Eliahu S. Zilkha for £4m. This is equal to 51 per cent of the published net asset value of the banque at December 31 last. The price is payable in three instalments.

Higher interim figures from Wheelock

In the half-year to September 30, pre-tax profits of Hongkong group Wheelock Marden rose

from \$142.28m (HK) to \$153.38m. The interim payments on the "A" and "B" shares are unchanged at 5 cents and 0.5 cents respectively. The board expects to recommend a final of "not less than 17.5 cents on the "A" (against 15 last year) and 1.75 cents on the "B" (1.5 cents).

Margins suffer at Tex Abrasives

Continued pressure on margins and overheads caused pre-tax profits of Tex Abrasives to slip from £170,000 to £161,000 in the half-year to September 30. This was in spite of a 7 per cent rise in turnover to £2.82m.

The other factor which contributed to the profit fall was the engineers' dispute which loss of equipment has led to the interim payment at 10p gross, the board is hopeful that the

year's profits will top 1978-79's £368,000 pre-tax. Tax makes coated abrasives.

Sandeman predicts £2.7m pre-tax

The formal offer dealing with the agreed takeover by Seagram Co of Canada of Geo G. Sandeman contains a forecast that pre-tax profits of Sandeman for 1979 will be "not less than £2.7m. This profit includes an exceptional item, being a pre-tax profit of about £240,000 from the sale of storage tanks.

Youghal Carpets' disposal of assets

Two of the offshoots of Youghal Carpets (Holdings) have disposed of surplus assets. Morris (Kidderminster) has sold its freehold interest in the Viaduct Works for £500,000 compared with the £450,000 book value. Gloucester Carpet Co has sold its short leasehold in a factory at Gloucester for £25,000 and associated plant and equipment for £115,000. The book value of these assets was nil.

Bank Base Rates

Bank	Rate
ABN Bank	17%
Barclays Bank	17%
BCCI Bank	17%
Consolidated Credit	17%
C. Hoare & Co	17%
Lloyds Bank	17%
London Mercantile	17%
242 242 Robert Jenkins	17%
Nat Westminster	17%
Roxminster	17%
TSB	17%
Williams and Glyn's	17%

Options

Traded options took their lead from the general firmness in the rest of the equity market yesterday as dealers reported a high level of business than for quite some time. Total contracts were 700 compared with Thursday's figure of 635 and the general market was more active. Cons Gold continued to prove popular with the new 350p series being dealt in for the first time.

Traditional options reported quieter conditions although some interest was expressed in Australians including old favourites Poseidon and North Flinders.

INITIAL SERVICES

Turnover for months to September 30 £60.29m (£52.63m). Pre-tax profit £7.26m (£6.24m). Earnings per share 8.7p (£8.5p). Interim, 2.25p (£2.15p). Board says the increase partly reflects the improved results and partly their wish to reduce the disparity between payments.

GRE RESTRUCTURE

Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance, one of Britain's major insurance companies, is to restructure the work of 47 of its 138 offices. The company has announced a three-year programme, which it is claimed will help GRE to meet the changing needs of the insurance market.

METAL BOX

Metal Box India reports excellent growth in sales and profit for the 18 months ended September 30. Sales for the 18 months were Rs 1,344 million compared with sales of Rs 682 million for the 18 months ended March 31 1978. Profit for the 18 month period

ANTOPAGASTA RAIL

In a circular recommending acceptance of the offer from Turismo E. Iamboliana Bio-Bio office, board of Antopagasta (Chile) and Bolivia Railway states that current year's trading has not been as profitable as last year.

NORMAN BAY

Camelia Investments has bought 20,000 shares in Norman Bay and now holds 210,000 shares (5.25 per cent).

ADWEST GROUP

Turnover for half-year to September 30, £5.11m (£4m). Pre-tax profit, £89,000 (£84,000). Interim payment held at 2.14p gross.

EVODE

Stafford-based adhesives and variants maker Evode is making plans to expand its manufacturing and selling figures of Mole Tools, makers of Mole Self-Grip.

JOSEPH SHAKESPEARE

Board of Joseph Shakespeare has received an approach which may lead to an offer being made for the company; listing suspended at company's request.

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27 28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone: 01 638 8651
The Over-the-Counter Market

1978 79	Company	Price	Change	Div	P/E
99 39	Airsprung Group	75	—	6.7	8.9
30 35	Armstrong & Rhodes	38xd	—	3.0	10.0
223 143	Bardon Hill	223	—	13.8	50.4
101 30	Deborah Ord	333	—	17.5	5.0
333 146	Deborah Ord, CULS	333	—	17.5	5.0
147 100	George Blair	110	—	16.5	15.0
61 45	Jackson Group	60	—	5.2	8.7
153 97	James Burrough	116	—	7.2	6.2
342 242	Robert Jenkins	242xd	—	31.3	12.9
334 150	Torway Limited	223	—	14.3	6.4
24 14	Twinkllock Ord	75	—	12.0	16.0
82 69	Twinkllock 12% ULS	86	—	2.6	4.6
36 23	Uniclock Holdings	83	—	4.4	5.3
193 136	W. S. Yeates	184	—	11.5	6.3
193 185	W. S. Yeates New	185	—	—	—

*Accounts prepared under provision of SSAPIS.

Wall Street

New York Dec 14—Stocks rose as the NYSE index added 0.67 to 62.35 and the average price per share 35c. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.66 to 847.75, its best level since October 11. The rise brought the gain for the week to 9.56. Advances led declines 981 to 563 as turnover swelled to 41,800,000 shares.

Record gold price

New York Dec 14—London over report of more Middle East tension and a record \$400.00 per ounce, before it slipped back to \$395.00. The market was quickly encouraged by reports that the gold price would be set at \$395.00 per ounce. The price rose to \$395.00 per ounce, its highest level since October 11. The rise brought the gain for the week to 9.56. Advances led declines 981 to 563 as turnover swelled to 41,800,000 shares.

Dec 14	Dec 13	Dec 12	Dec 11	Dec 10	Dec 9	Dec 8	Dec 7	Dec 6	Dec 5	Dec 4	Dec 3	Dec 2	Dec 1	Nov 30	Nov 29	Nov 28	Nov 27	Nov 26	Nov 25	Nov 24	Nov 23	Nov 22	Nov 21	Nov 20	Nov 19	Nov 18	Nov 17	Nov 16	Nov 15	Nov 14	Nov 13	Nov 12	Nov 11	Nov 10	Nov 9	Nov 8	Nov 7	Nov 6	Nov 5	Nov 4	Nov 3	Nov 2	Nov 1	Oct 31	Oct 30	Oct 29	Oct 28	Oct 27	Oct 26	Oct 25	Oct 24	Oct 23	Oct 22	Oct 21	Oct 20	Oct 19	Oct 18	Oct 17	Oct 16	Oct 15	Oct 14	Oct 13	Oct 12	Oct 11	Oct 10	Oct 9	Oct 8	Oct 7	Oct 6	Oct 5	Oct 4	Oct 3	Oct 2	Oct 1	Sept 30	Sept 29	Sept 28	Sept 27	Sept 26	Sept 25	Sept 24	Sept 23	Sept 22	Sept 21	Sept 20	Sept 19	Sept 18	Sept 17	Sept 16	Sept 15	Sept 14	Sept 13	Sept 12	Sept 11	Sept 10	Sept 9	Sept 8	Sept 7	Sept 6	Sept 5	Sept 4	Sept 3	Sept 2	Sept 1	Aug 31	Aug 30	Aug 29	Aug 28	Aug 27	Aug 26	Aug 25	Aug 24	Aug 23	Aug 22	Aug 21	Aug 20	Aug 19	Aug 18	Aug 17	Aug 16	Aug 15	Aug 14	Aug 13	Aug 12	Aug 11	Aug 10	Aug 9	Aug 8	Aug 7	Aug 6	Aug 5	Aug 4	Aug 3	Aug 2	Aug 1	July 31	July 30	July 29	July 28	July 27	July 26	July 25	July 24	July 23	July 22	July 21	July 20	July 19	July 18	July 17	July 16	July 15	July 14	July 13	July 12	July 11	July 10	July 9	July 8	July 7	July 6	July 5	July 4	July 3	July 2	July 1	June 30	June 29	June 28	June 27	June 26	June 25	June 24	June 23	June 22	June 21	June 20	June 19	June 18	June 17	June 16	June 15	June 14	June 13	June 12	June 11	June 10	June 9	June 8	June 7	June 6	June 5	June 4	June 3	June 2	June 1	May 31	May 30	May 29	May 28	May 27	May 26	May 25	May 24	May 23	May 22	May 21	May 20	May 19	May 18	May 17	May 16	May 15	May 14	May 13	May 12	May 11	May 10	May 9	May 8	May 7	May 6	May 5	May 4	May 3	May 2	May 1	April 30	April 29	April 28	April 27	April 26	April 25	April 24	April 23	April 22	April 21	April 20	April 19	April 18	April 17	April 16	April 15	April 14	April 13	April 12	April 11	April 10	April 9	April 8	April 7	April 6	April 5	April 4	April 3	April 2	April 1	March 31	March 30	March 29	March 28	March 27	March 26	March 25	March 24	March 23	March 22	March 21	March 20	March 19	March 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confess to having just come out of one of the deadly sins, joyed it enormously, but indiscretion is always so more piquant after a day of self denial. The invitation was a crash diet, the sin, entirely on your part, was gluttony.

ts of foods specially packed for Christmas are pretty good to look at, but likely to be financial as well as gastric biccups and while lousal extravagance can be a waste, it is simply mismanagement. So I thought you like to know just what side route of the temptations offer this year.

palates will not, of course, coincide, exactly, but selection has been tried on all testers and in order to avoid at all, each product to reach a minimum of "good of its kind" at least you know you are not being guided towards a brownie fruit cake or a late covered wood shaver.

us start off modestly with a selection for one of the most male remarks I ever overheard, made by a Lothario clearly was not saying the secret of his success with women: "I make mine for the plain ones." Indeed, "They are always useful."

come in attractive 8.8oz tins of 50 bags for £1.39. Most delicious accompaniment would be a box of chocolate Cointreau sticks, which positively drip with liqueur as they melt in your mouth, £2.85. Both tea and Cointreau sticks are in major branches of Marks and Spencer.

Attractive food containers that can be put to further use are a practical idea. Benedictine mustard comes in a reliable brown china pot and is in the stocking filler price range at £1.86, available in many food halls. Also in a brown pot, but hardly in the same category, unless you happen to have size 12 stockings, is a splendid earthenware terrine holding 2.5 kilos of wild boar pate for £2.25.

These terrines, by French charcuterie producers Condamine of Condamine, are made in traditional eighteenth century designs, each with a pottery head on top indicating the type of pate inside—as well as the bird there, is hare, pheasant, duck and venison. There are small duck and pheasant shaped containers holding half a kilo at £1.86. They have no lids, but could be used as flower holders later. Or, if you fancy an ornamental 21 inch pheasant, duck or goose, holding 2 kilos, it will cost £3.99.

A selection of these terrines is available from larger branches of Marks and in leading delicatessens. In the Greater London area they can be delivered to the door by The Cold Table, 12 Abingdon Road, London W8 (01-937 8400) or direct from the factory, at £10.85 for 14lb, £13.50 for 2lb. Or they have Young's ready-to-eat smoked salmon, reformed as a side and frozen for £9.50 per lb.

For really elegant gourmets, you could do better than a gift box from the Caviar Bar, Knightsbridge Green, 122 Brompton Road, London, SW3. It contains two each of Beluga and Sturgeon caviar, a pot of Sole d'oeuf and a whole truffle for £28.

Truffles usually come in such tiny pieces in pates that my inadequate palate can hardly detect the flavour, so the idea of a whole one intrigues me. I have always envied a jet-setting friend who tends to breakfast in Copenhagen and lunch in Cannes and who is the only gastronome I know who has eaten whole truffles as an hors d'oeuvre.

He tells me they were placed, unpeeled, in a saucepan containing enough dry white wine to cover and then simmered for 12 to 15 minutes until the liquid evaporated. Peeled ones take five or six minutes. They were then thinly sliced and served, one to each of six diners, at £40 per portion—and this was eight years ago. Relatively speaking, the ones in the Caviar Bar at £13.66 each are almost loss leaders.

I must have had a touch of the Christmas glitters, as my next temptation was Nigel Milne's shop in Mount Street, London W1, where there is a beautiful collection of Victorian and Edwardian silver photograph frames. Price depends not only on size, but on the quality and elaboration of the decoration. A small plain frame might cost £65, an elaborate 10 x 8in one, £350, a double one that folds back on itself, £250.

Obviously, with all this silver around one needs a swag bag, and I found the most handsome hold-all at Loewe, 25a New Bond Street, London W1. It may be very upper class to go around with tarty old suitcases handed down from the Crises, but these new inventions are to leave babies called Ernest in them at Victoria Station. I would recommend something slightly more distinctive. This particular bag is in the softest honey-coloured suede with a strapped and



Food and drink for Christmas giving and enjoying, including, of course, candy which is dandy and liquor which is quicker. Details and report, left.

Quite the prettiest way of giving a party off to a good start is to serve pink champagne. Not any old pink champagne, you understand, which the older guests may associate with mild athlete's foot, having drunk it in their youth from ladies' slippers. No, this must be the really dry and delicate Laurent-Perrin's Rose Brut champagne, which is one of the few pink drinks to merit a second taste from the few real wine buffs I know. It costs about £8.50 a bottle and you can find it at McKinnon & Co, Belgrave Court, London, SW1. Savanna Liquor Stores, Goldhawk Road, London, W12, Beaconsfield Wine Cellars, Buckinghamshire, Michael

Duck, Canterbury, and Edward Sheldon, Shipston-on-Strour. For more serious drinkers I would suggest The Macallan 10-year-old single malt. Distilled on Speyside, matured in oak casks that have contained sherry, it is described in the Harrods Book of Whiskies as a "Rolls-Royce among malts." Such a phrase often means that a Rolls-Royce price is about to be charged for a Mini, but in this case you are getting the real McCoy. It costs £9 a bottle at Harrods.

Or you might know someone who enjoys brew-it-yourself. Cresty's make a delightful miniature hamper containing gingerbread bags of spices for making mulled wine. A book of seven recipes is included, £4.95 from Liberrys.

You might offer a plebeian peanut with your wine, but Macadamia nuts would add a classier touch. They claim to be the most expensive nuts in the world at £1.86 for 100 grams and they are rather like obese cashew nuts. I should point out, though, that printed on the side of the elegant brown box is the legend "Packed with the approval of the Tree Nut Authority at Nanning 'Omnia Estate', which sounds like a Malawi government health warning not to forget the Alka Seltzer. After all, you can't be too careful with a Tree Nut authority.

A tiny gallery of a shop, which opened a month ago at 11a William Street, London SW1, is quite unlike any other antique shop I have seen. Some have pieces obviously destined for a museum, others for a municipal dump, but most have a selection rather than a collection to offer. However desirable the pieces and however beautiful they may look in someone's home, they have no bearing upon each other while actually in the shop.

Presantiques, the creation of Marietta Coleridge and Delfina Wansbrough, is different. All the objects are quite small, or at least portable, and they are all like members of a rather large family, not as close in feeling as brothers and sisters but not so far apart as second cousins.

The reason is that they are all Mrs Coleridge's personal choice. She does not buy them because she thinks they will sell, but because they are nice enough to have in her own home. That is a very high standard indeed, because her husband is a director of Christie's and although he has nothing to do with his wife's business for ethical reasons, it was his experience that influenced her taste and made her want to study antiques, too.

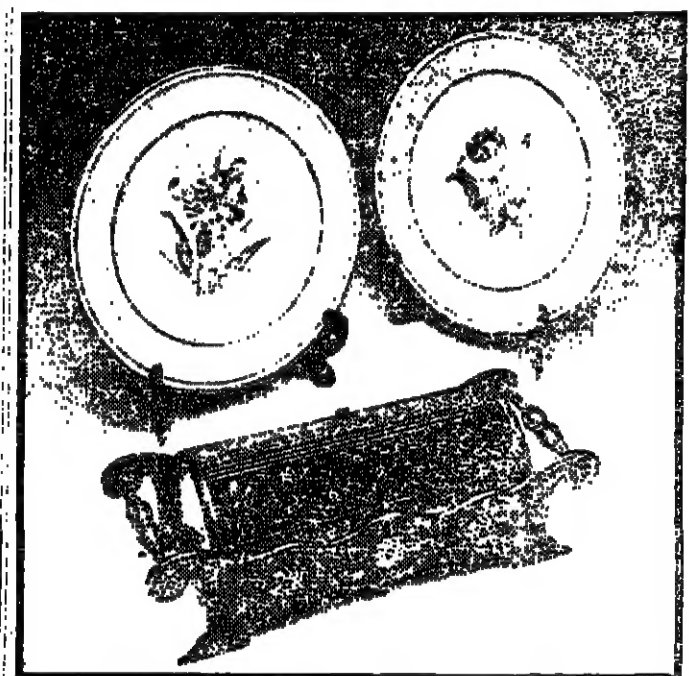
She specializes in the nineteenth century and her favourite materials are bronze

and ormolu. She is also mad about the sphinx and buys it in any form—she even has a boot scraper with an enigmatic feline. In case you fancy it, it costs £210.

The price range is perfect for presents, ranging from £10 to about £500. At the lower end you could choose an English Chinoiserie cup or a delicate mother of pearl pen-knife; for £20 there is a lovely bronze coloured lacquered box with golden leaves and birds.

For those with deeper pockets, there is a very handsome lacquer tea caddy with an unusually worked pewter lining, £175, a variety of beautiful porcelain vases and plates or, if your taste is for the curious, a silver harp painted with a picture of Queen Victoria, £150.

Equally intriguing is a strangely curved unholstered stool piece that turned out to be a gout stool. It would certainly be a conversation starter—but be prepared for some hairy revelations.



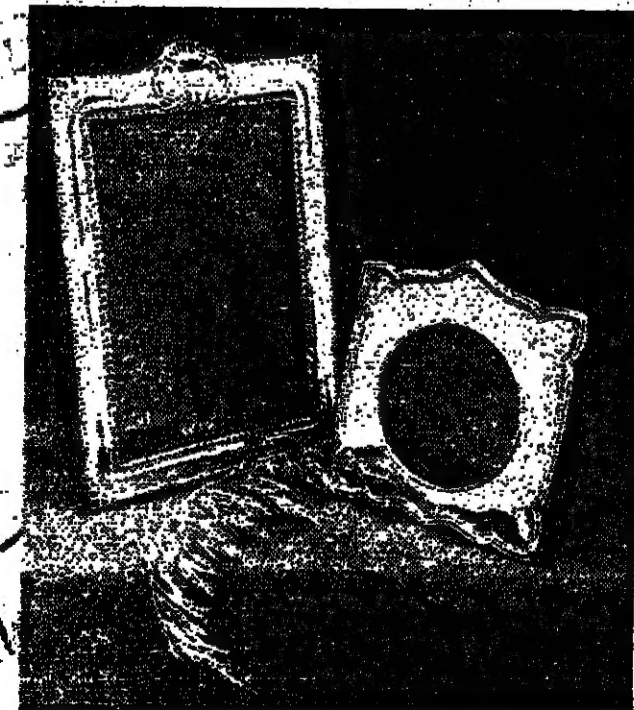
Pair of Coalport plates with turquoise and gold surround, £48, and Regency roll-top inkstand in rosewood, £200. Both from Presantiques, 11a William Street, London SW1

Acquisitive children of all ages should make a note of a toy auction to be held at Albion Street, London SW1, next Wednesday and Thursday by Sutherby's Belgrave. It is the largest sale of its type they have held and the lots range from 1950 toys estimated to sell at £5 to £10 to French automatons such as a laughing clown made in the 1890s, which is expected to reach around £3,000.

The oldest items are George III painted wooden dolls and there is a Biedermeier shroud papier-mache doll made around 1830 and a painted shoulder-wax portrait doll of the young Queen Victoria made around 1840.

If you are interested in modern craftsmen made toys, too, Charles de Temple has an exhibition of fascinating examples at 52 Jermyn Street, London SW1. There are pretty porcelain dolls in traditional styles by Judy Sanders, some of Juliet Hills's well-known clowns, porcelain Pierrots by Eva and a selection of witty wooden toys by Maggie Wareham. Prices range from £2.50 for a rag doll kit by Louise Elliott to £250 and the exhibition is open until Christmas Eve.

Brightly painted wooden balloon by Maggie Wareham, £40 from Charles de Temple's Craftsmen of Distinction exhibition, 52 Jermyn Street, SW1.



Above left: Edwardian silver photograph frame, 7 x 5 inches, made in Chester in 1911, £135, and Victorian frame, 4 x 4 inches, made in Birmingham 1904 £110. Both from Nigel Milne, 91 Mount Street, London, W1. Above: 18ct gold box with carved opal flowers diamond, centred on an onyx lid £2,583. Fluted bar jigger in silver with hammered silver gilt stem, £154. Both by Stuart Devlin, 25 Conduit Street, London, W1.

Right: Swedish glass candle-holder by Pukeberg, £11.80, decorated with garlands of glossy red berries, £1.85 each. From The Swedish Table, 7 Paddington Street, London, W1. Below: Cobalt blue and white hand-painted box containing a candle. Made in Thailand, £3.50 from Ganesha, 6 Park Walk, Fulham Road, London, SW10.



Left: Honey coloured suede hold-all by Loewe, New Bond Street, London. Shown fully extended, the bag below the horizontal band straps neatly to the part when you need a more compact case. £289.

studded bottom section which can be let down to accommodate your contraband, £289.

I make no apologies for showing you very expensive presents this week. I love looking at beautiful things, but don't have the slightest pangs at having to part with them, so I hope some of you feel the same. And to those of you who can actually go out and buy them, I wish you appreciation.

As all good fairy tales start in a palace, I went to Stuart Devlin's new shop in Conduit Street, which is like walking straight into something from Hans Christian Andersen. Mr Devlin, whose artistic experience ranges from sculpture to furniture design, trained as a silversmith at the Royal College of Art and could literally be said to be coining it when he was commissioned

to design the Australian decimal currency. His leanings since have been towards much more exotic heights of fancy and he is, of course, known for his superb fantasy eggs. There is a beautiful example on display in 18ct gold, diamond round the cracked "shell" and filled with pearl flowers and a hovering butterfly. Yours for £7,879.

His design preoccupation is with tiny flowers, massed in silver and silver gilt round the

frames of mirrors or the edges of bowls. A small mirror might cost £47, a fruit bowl £3,000. Flatware is a singularly dull name for some of the superb knives, forks and spoons designed by Stuart Devlin and hand-forged by Richard Cook, the only silversmith left in the world. I am told, who hammers each piece out of an ingot of silver. The results are quite magnificent and you could have a single example of it by choosing a paper knife made

in one sweeping curve, the handle textured and the blade rapier smooth, £240. Most splendid of all are the floating candelabra, which I would cover madly if I lived in a suitably stately home. They look like notes of a violin captured in silver and, because they are finely balanced on only four delicate points, look as though they are suspended in mid-air. You may float, too, at hearing that a 16-light size costs £6,856.

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